Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches

17-20 February 2004

Meeting held at the

Ecumenical Centre, Geneva, Switzerland

These minutes have no official status until received, amended as necessary and approved by the Executive Committee at its next meeting. The official proceedings of the Executive Committee consist of a documented record of decisions taken by the Committee along with the texts of documents acted upon. The introductions to agenda items and summaries of presentations and discussions are prepared by the minute-taker for background information only, and should not be cited as part of the official proceedings of the meeting nor as such attributed to the speakers' names.

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1 OPENING ACTIONS

1.1 Worship

Morning worship took place each day of the meeting in the Chapel of the Ecumenical Centre. The daily themes were:

17 February:	Grace as Strength in Weakness (2 Cor. 12: 7-10) Preacher: Very Revd Leonid Kishkovsky
18 February:	Sharing the Grace (1 Peter 4: 9-11) Preacher: Ms Idah Njobvu
19 February:	Grace being given Gratuitously (Isa. 54: 7-10) Preacher: Rt Revd Dr Zacharias Mar Theophilus
20 February:	Proclaiming the Grace (Luke 4: 16-22) Preacher: Ms Jana Krajcirikova

1.2 Call to Order and Welcome

The Moderator, His Holiness Aram I, called the meeting to order at 0910 hrs on 17 February 2004. After welcoming the members back home to the Ecumenical Centre, he noted that this was the first time that they were meeting with Revd Dr Samuel Kobia as their General Secretary, and he reiterated their congratulations to Dr Kobia on his appointment. They were meeting with expectations for the future, particularly surrounding the Assembly in 2006 and he had three major concerns:

- after the recent period of upheavals, we must strengthen, deepen and broaden the ecumenical fellowship along the lines of the CUV
in this challenging world, we must work together to increase the relevance and credibility of the WCC
- after a period of concentrating on our internal life, we must come out of ourselves and engage with the member churches, for we are not simply an organization but a fellowship.

1.3 Roll Call

The General Secretary thanked the Moderator for his kind words of congratulation and proceeded to call the roll.

Apologies had been received from Ms Donnalie Edwards-Cabey and Revd Dr Ilaitia Sevati Tuwere, for whom Mr John Doom was approved as a substitute.

1.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, 24-25 August 2003 were approved as circulated.

1.5 Adoption of Agenda and Timetable

The General Secretary presented a proposed agenda and timetable.
A major emphasis would be the forthcoming Assembly, the Assembly Planning Committee having met two weeks previously. His installation as General Secretary would take place in the Chapel on the evening of 18 February and be followed by a reception in the lobby.

The Executive Committee approved the agenda and timetable.

1.6 News from Members

On the invitation of the Moderator, members shared news from their regions.

Revd Iteffa Gobena was both happy and sad. He was happy that the WCC had Dr Kobia as General Secretary. Dr Kobia was from a neighbouring country to his own, and he assured him of support from his fellow Africans. But he was sad, having just heard the news of the unexpected death, in his early 50s, of Mr Feyissa Kayemo, his church's former Director of Development and Social Service, and he requested prayers for his family. On behalf of the Committee, the Moderator expressed condolences and assured them of our prayers.

Rt Revd Dr Zacharias Mar Theophilus was looking forward to an official visit by the new General Secretary to the Mar Thoma Church. The Mar Thoma Convention, with the theme 'Called to Repentance', was at present taking place. The attendance the previous Sunday had been 200,000 and the overall attendance would be one million. He would be present the following Sunday. Many in India were suffering because of their faith, and anti-conversion laws had been passed in many states. He had been present at the meeting of the Indian National Council of Churches the previous week with the theme 'Towards truth and peace: our common pilgrimage'. Economically India was doing well – in the large cities – but there was much rural poverty.

Very Revd Leonid Kishkovsky spoke of the visit of Dr Raiser and Dr Kobia to New York in November 2003, when useful contacts had been made. Considerable expectations surrounded Dr Kobia's next visit, to Washington, in March, when he would meet Afro-American leaders. While it was hard to gauge the ecumenical atmosphere in the US, he felt that the ecumenical community was holding its own. He himself had been recently in Moscow at an inter-Orthodox meeting, led by the Russian Orthodox Church, at which representatives of all Eastern Orthodox Churches had been present.

2 REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

At the invitation of the Moderator, the General Secretary gave his report. He began by adding his words of welcome to those of the Moderator.

It was only 46 days since he had become General Secretary and so there was not much to report by way of visits to churches.

He first reported on the period since his election. Prior to taking up his appointment, he had taken courses in the USA in preparation and gone on retreat in the USA and in Kenya, which had spiritually energized him. He expressed his thanks to the ecumenical partners and member churches, which

had covered the costs, and also to the Central Committee members for their spiritual accompaniment.

During his first six weeks in post, he had devoted himself to listening and learning to view the WCC from his new perspective. The Staff Executive Group had had a retreat, and there had been meetings with the Regional Task Groups to plan possible visits by him to the regions. His intention was to meet with staff at all levels (executive, administrative and technical) and demonstrate his availability to them. He had decided not to travel during his first three months (apart from the USA visit in March). This Executive Committee meeting was also an opportunity for him to listen. At the August 2004 meeting he would lay out his plans for the period until the Assembly.

Regarding future travel, he regarded visits to churches as important. They fell into different categories, or combinations of categories: strategic, pastoral, protocol and political. For such visits he was dependent on advice from colleagues and from the Orthodox Task Force.

He was committed to developing relationships. To that end, on 9-10 January he and the Moderator had met with the 'Stuttgart Group', a group of six major European funding agencies. At that meeting there had been a critical look at the partnership between them and the WCC, and a discussion on how to organize their work together more effectively. There had been a positive spirit in the meeting and they had reached agreement on four areas:

- The agencies did not see themselves as outside the ecumenical movement but as legitimate instruments of their churches within the ecumenical movement.
- The WCC and the six agencies had complementary roles.
- The WCC and the agencies had a common calling within which the agencies exercised a specialist ministry.
- The agencies did not wish for a presence on WCC governing bodies, as being represented by their churches was reckoned to be sufficient.

For its part, the WCC viewed the agencies as part of the ecumenical movement and not simply as sources of funding.

For their part, the agencies wished to see a strong WCC that could speak out strongly at global level, and they had undertaken to maintain the same level of funding, with adjustment for inflation, for the next three years.

Turning to the reconfiguration of the ecumenical movement, he referred to the letter on the subject that he had sent to the Central Committee members outlining what had happened at the meeting at Antelias, Lebanon, 17-21 November 2003. Reconfiguration was a complex issue and there was as yet no clear common understanding of it. The WCC's future role was to facilitate the process further, interpreting the results of the Antelias consultation and broadening the discussion. A consultant would be engaged to 'map' the present ecumenical movement, and a full report on the process would be given to the Central Committee in February 2005.

Regarding the Kimbanguist Church, correspondence with the church's spiritual head had continued, with the aim of gathering sufficient information to enable the Executive Committee in August 2004 to formulate a recommendation on its continued membership for submission to the Central Committee in February 2005. The church was maintaining that they had not departed from the WCC Basis, but there were internal divisions and tensions.

Concerning council-wide programmes, he referred the Executive Committee to the document 'Programme Highlights', which gave an overview of the programme highlights over the previous six months and described the major issues and challenges emerging at the beginning of 2004.

In addition he gave an update on the Ecumenical Focus on Africa. The WCC had continued to accompany the peace process in Sudan, and peace talks were being resumed the following day. There was hope that a peace agreement would be signed within a few weeks and an inter-faith service of thanksgiving was being planned.

Concerning the All Africa Conference of Churches, Dr Raiser and himself had attended their General Assembly. The AACC was emerging as a strong REO

and had an insightful leader in its new General Secretary, Bishop Mvume Dandala. Relations with the WCC were improving and work recently done by the WCC could now be taken on again by AACC. Joint publications were envisaged.

He believed with the Moderator that inter-faith dialogue and cooperation were of increasing importance in today's world, and they were a top priority for the WCC as we moved to the next Assembly. There were hopes of a global consultation on the issue in the latter part of 2004.

Regarding finance, he paid tribute to the financial staff and their competence. General reserves were being built up, but the WCC's funding base needed to be expanded. European agencies, for example, on which the WCC was dependent, were having problems.

Concerning Human Sexuality, it would be the subject of a major presentation at the next Central Committee meeting and an issue of the Ecumenical Review would be devoted to it.

Finally, he spoke of the WCC's growing relationship with the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP). The Canberra Assembly had encouraged the WCC to be more closely involved with WCRP, but that had not been immediately followed up. However, he and Dr Raiser had met with its General Secretary in December 2003 and explored possibilities of formalizing cooperation. Dr Agnes Abuom and the Very Revd Leonid Kishkovsky were also involved with the WCRP.

In conclusion, he thanked the Committee for this opportunity to share his concerns with them.

The Moderator thanked the General Secretary for his comprehensive report and invited discussion.

Ms Carmencita Karagdag thanked the General Secretary for his report and especially his reporting on the Consultation on Reconfiguration of the Ecumenical Movement and on the meeting with the agencies/specialized ministries. She was concerned that there should be an appropriate relationship between them and the WCC as a fellowship of churches.

Dr Tarek Mitri described staff thinking on the proposed global consultation on inter-faith dialogue and cooperation. In the past such consultations had tended to be bilateral or regional. What was now being envisaged was a global multi-lateral consultation drawing on the experience of the WCC. The consultation would lead into the next Assembly.

Bishop Dr Hilarion Alfeyev thanked the General Secretary for his report and looked forward to a long and fruitful relationship. He was concerned about the proposed global inter-faith consultation and asked how it would be different from the many such consultations already taking place. Did we really want such involvement with the inter-religious sphere while there were still problems within the WCC concerning relations between Protestants and Orthodox? He also asked whether we should not rather concentrate on dialogue with Pentecostals and charismatics.

Rt Revd Dr Zacharias Mar Theophilus was glad that the General Secretary had taken up the Moderator's concern for inter-faith dialogue. In India they were experiencing inter-religious conflict and even killings. Visibility of WCC's commitment to inter-religious dialogue was necessary and it would enable churches themselves to enter into inter-religious dialogue with confidence.

Very Revd Leonid Kishkovsky drew attention to one particular problem in inter-religious dialogue. So often those involved were motivated by their own personal interest in the issue and acted in an individual capacity. Criteria needed to be established to ensure that those involved in inter-religious movements were truly representative of their communities so as to ensure that a genuine dialogue between religious communities was taking place. He mentioned that the Russian Orthodox Church was planning an inter-religious

gathering from throughout the former Soviet Union. Such gatherings were a phenomenon of our time.

Dean Anders Gadegaard agreed that criteria needed to be developed by the WCC to enable churches to participate in dialogue as churches. His own church, for example, had no tradition of dialogue with Muslim incomers.

Revd Septemmy Lakawa said that this was a challenge to be faced appropriately. We were in a new situation, and congregations needed to be helped to be relevant Christians in a pluralist society.

HG Archbishop Mor Cyril Aphrem Karim commented that, while such a global inter-religious consultation would give visibility to the WCC, he wondered whether it would reach down to congregational level. He pointed to the impossibility of obtaining officially accredited representatives from the Muslim community. We all needed to learn to live peaceably with other religious communities.

Professor Dr Samuel Lee saw solving inter-religious conflict as a life and death issue. There were always political and economic factors in inter-religious relations. Solid study and analysis was essential in this area and one global consultation in itself was not enough.

The General Secretary responded to the discussion and assured the Committee that the points made would be considered in the planning of the consultation. It would be an event convened by the WCC, but a platform for dialogue at serious level leading hopefully to cooperation, especially for local congregations. The churches and the specialized ministries needed to know what the WCC was doing at global level. The Assembly would need a clear indication of the present position, so as to be able to give a clear mandate for future work. While we did need to continue to pay attention to dialogue within the Christian community, that did not exclude dialogue between the religions. Both were possible.

He invited further comment from staff members.

Revd Dr Hans Ucko observed that what was needed was not simply a one-off conference but an ongoing process, for which resources would be required. He reminded the Committee of the 1979 Guidelines on Dialogue.

Dr Tarek Mitri said that the proposed consultation would draw on and strengthen what had been achieved, which was often little known in the member churches, and provide pointers for the future and carry the process forward. The challenge was to mount an international event that was different.

The Moderator, responding, expressed thanks for the discussion, perhaps the first time that such a discussion had taken place in the Executive Committee. The proposed consultation must assist the churches in their inter-faith dialogue and relations. Some issues particularly would need to be addressed:

- dialogue needed to deal with existential realities and not be simply academic
- it needed to be a dialogue between communities, not simply between interested individuals
- it needed to be both local and global in context
- it was necessary to move on from mere co-existence to living together peaceably.

3 PRESENTATION ON FINANCES

Dr William Temu presented a document giving a Finance Overview, which would be examined in detail in the Finance Sub-Committee. The year 2003 had been a good year: targets had been achieved; there had been no serious cash flow problem; no investments had had to be sold; and churches and partners had fulfilled their pledges. Thanks were due to them.

Ms Elaine Dykes, also commenting on the year 2003, stated that there had been no transfers from reserves but only transfers to reserves.

The income of the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, was much improved, and there had been real savings in travel and printing. She also reported the sale of Casa Locarno. She emphasized that the 2003 accounts were still subject to audit.

Mr Costandi Mustaklem commented on the budgets for the current and following years. The budget for 2004 and the Assembly budget had already been approved by the Central Committee at its 2003 meeting. The Assembly Planning Committee had recently met and was making recommendations with financial implications, which would be discussed in the Finance Sub-Committee.

Discussion

Dean Anders Gadegaard commended the finance team for their work. It was gratifying that the situation had improved compared with one year previously and the WCC was no longer relying on its fixed assets.

Mrs Justice Sophia Adinyira also commended the finance team and expressed the hope that there would be no further need for staff reductions.

Professor Dr Samuel Lee also expressed appreciation to the finance team. The good result had been achieved not through increased membership contributions but through careful management of financial resources.

The Moderator, in conclusion, expressed the deep appreciation of the WCC to all donors, particularly the agencies/specialized ministries, which cover much of the budget. The meeting with them had been constructive and they had shown themselves deeply committed to the WCC. He added his own personal appreciation to the finance team.

4 PROGRAMME REPORT

4.1 Programme Highlights

Ms Geneviève Jacques presented a report on Programme Highlights, giving an overview of the WCC's programmatic work. She emphasized that the thirteen core programmes were not parallel and independent programmes but formed an interlocking and coherent whole. An increasing number of activities under the lead responsibility of a specific team or desk were the result of fruitful inter-team cooperation. Strategic staff groups had been set up and the reflective, analytical and forward-looking role of the Staff Executive Group had been strengthened.

General appreciation was expressed for the report and considerable discussion of particular issues ensued. Salient discussion points were:

Dean Anders Gadegaard said that much public interest had been aroused by the visit of the Iranian President Mohammad Khatami to the WCC on 11 December 2003, but wondered if an opportunity had not been missed by not raising with him the problems of Christian minorities in Islam. Ms Jacques, responding, stated that in the short private meeting with the Iranian President prepared talking points, including religious freedom and the nuclear programme, had been raised.

Very Revd Leonid Kishkovsky, warned of problems raised by a reduced staff attempting to maintain the same level of programmatic activity, possibly placing unbearable burdens on them.

The Moderator, commenting on the Consultation on Ministry and Ordination in the Community of Women and Men (the first time that Faith and Order had organized a consultation directly discussing the ordination of women), said that it was positive in that it included a wide constituency, including Roman Catholic theologians who had been permitted to attend. However, since we are on the way to visible unity, he wondered whether raising the issue of women's

ordination at this point would help or hinder that process. Revd Dr Alan Falconer, responding, pointed out that, while consensus statements do have a role on the way to unity, it had not been the intention of that consultation to approve such a consensus statement. Rather it had provided an opportunity to explore together where we each are and create space for reflection.

Bishop Dr Rolf Koppe asked about the encounters between the WCC and the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, in particular the observation that 'while the philosophy of development and goals between the WCC and the Bank and the Fund seem to be similar, there is a huge gap in conceptual interpretation...' What was this conceptual gap? Ms Jacques, responding, stated that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund say that their goal also is the eradication of poverty. The difference is over how it is to be achieved, particularly their belief in privatization as increasing efficiency. At times there are tough discussions, but there is now a free exchange of understandings and the Bank and the Fund acknowledge the position of the churches.

4.2 Health and Healing: Work on HIV/AIDS

Dr Manoj Kurian invited the Committee to observe a moment of silence for all affected by HIV/AIDS. He then presented an overview of the WCC's work in this area.

In 1996 the Central Committee approved a statement on HIV/AIDS, which is still appreciated throughout the world. That concern had continued to the present day and, since the Harare Assembly, the commitment of the churches had been emphasized. The present programme focuses on policy, education, networking and advocacy.

There was a special focus on Africa but work was also being done in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Pacific. There was much cooperation with WHO, UNAIDS and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

There were four current challenges: ownership of the issue by church leaders; there must be zero tolerance of stigmatization and discrimination; there must be access to treatment; and there must be access to knowledge.

He appealed to the churches not to come between the grace of God and the people, either by omission or by commission. Faith communities were sometimes judgmental and divisive ('them' and 'us'), but they should be caring, loving and inclusive.

Discussion

Dean Anders Gadegaard congratulated Dr Kurian on his presentation. He pleaded for a change of attitude in the churches, so that sexuality was seen as a gift of God and not as a result of sin. There was need for moral training at congregational level.

Ms Idah Njobvu had recently been at a conference where churches' general secretaries seemed ignorant of the issue.

Revd Iteffa Gobena pointed to poverty as a major factor in the spread of HIV/AIDS. The churches had been active in this field for many years, and much work had been done by WCC and much material produced. He asked why we are not effecting change and pleaded for more action at local level, where every congregation should be a caring and healing community.

Dr Kurian, responding, mentioned the theological material on sexuality that had been produced and stressed that it was at regional level that lessons and knowledge could best be shared.

5 RELATIONS WITH CONSTITUENCIES

Ms Teny Pirri-Simonian presented a report on relations with constituencies. The report focused on one area of relationships, those with the Christian World Communions (CWCs). There were three levels of relationship:

The Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions was an informal annual gathering, in which the WCC General Secretary is involved. They had expanded their traditional passive information sharing agenda and were now examining their status within the wider ecumenical movement. The CUV process had stimulated them to rethink their relations with the WCC. They also acted together on common issues. They had made a joint statement on the status of Christians in Indonesia and on the question of Jerusalem and the situation in the Holy Land.

Common membership of WCC and CWCs. Many churches were members both of WCC and of their respective CWC. Some CWCs, however, had no member churches that are also WCC member churches and our networking with the CWCs brought us into relationship with many churches beyond our own membership.

Relationships with the Lutheran World Federation and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. This is a privileged relationship in that they and the WCC have their administration in the Ecumenical Centre and there had been a long history of programmatic cooperation. A particularly important issue is the possibility of coordinated assemblies. WCC staff had taken part in the assembly process of both LWF and WARC, and those two bodies had appointed representatives to the WCC Assembly Planning Committee. This issue should become a priority after the WCC Ninth Assembly.

Ms Teny Pirri-Simonian concluded her report by reminding the Executive Committee of the decision by the previous Central Committee meeting that 'a report be prepared for the 2005 Central Committee, in view of the Ninth Assembly, that summarizes and evaluates the World Council's work to

broaden and deepen our fellowship according to the CUV. This report will serve as a resource for determining future directions for this work.'

Discussion

Dr Marion Best wondered how the report mentioned above related to the pre-Assembly programme evaluation.

The Moderator observed that there is a great variety in our relationships. For example, the Roman Catholic Church and World Vision required different approaches. The relationship with the Roman Catholic Church was unique and had formal expression in the Joint Working Group. Referring to the appendix to the report listing visits to and from member churches, other churches and ecumenical partner bodies, he pleaded that we go beyond reciprocal visits to collaboration. There needed to be an evaluation of emerging challenges in these relationships. He further pointed out that the report called for by the Central Committee above was not limited to evaluating the WCC's relationships with the CWCs.

HE Metropolitan Dr Gennadios of Sassima, also remarking on the variety of relationships, emphasized the need to determine future developments in this area after the Assembly.

Professor Dr Samuel Lee saw the work on relationships and the work on programmes as not separable. We needed a fresh and more productive visiting programme policy resulting in collaborative work. All visits should be a tool for developing and strengthening relationships.

Ms Teny Pirri-Simonian, responding to Dr Best, saw the report she had referred to as one part of the pre-Assembly evaluation process. Responding to the Moderator, while accepting that the appendix to her report was simply a list, she indicated that it was simply an appendix and not an attempt to examine the quality of relationships in any depth.

Mr Georges Lemopoulos, also responding, emphasized that visits properly used could be an effective tool.

6 APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Mr Huibert van Beek presented five applications for membership for consideration by the Executive Committee:

Evangelical Baptist Church of Angola
The African Church (Nigeria)
Methodist Church in Indonesia
Baptist Convention of Haiti
Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim, Nigeria

He commented particularly on two applications, from the Evangelical Baptist Church of Angola and the Baptist Convention of Haiti. They were each from the Evangelical sector, and the Baptist Convention of Haiti had no historic relations with WCC member churches. Their applications were a significant development. Regarding the application from the Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim, Nigeria, in view of the divided opinions among the members of the visiting delegation, Mr van Beek was suggesting that a further visit be arranged with a view to a possible decision by the Executive Committee at its next meeting in August 2004.

Discussion

Bishop Dr Hilarion Alfeyev was concerned that there had been no Orthodox members in the delegations to Indonesia and Haiti. Mr van Beek, responding, said that the present policy was to make delegations as small as possible and use local people. Delegations could be enlarged to ensure Orthodox representation, but it would increase the cost of the visit.

There was considerable discussion on the application from the Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim. Principal points made were:

- it is not a member of AACC, and the opinion of AACC should be sought;
- the usual expectation is that an applicant church should be a member of the relevant REO, but that is not a formal requirement;
- rituals unfamiliar to delegation members, e.g. dancing, should not necessarily be viewed negatively;
- the Order has a theological seminary and its curriculum should be examined;
- the task of a delegation is not simply to measure a church's constitution against the WCC Basis, but to engage in an holistic examination of the church's life;
- it might be better simply to postpone a decision rather than set a future date for it.

The five applications were passed to the Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee for detailed consideration and recommendation. The Sub-Committee **recommended**, and the Executive Committee **agreed** to recommend to the Central Committee to receive the Evangelical Baptist Church of Angola, the African Church (Nigeria), the Methodist Church in Indonesia and the Baptist Convention of Haiti as member churches belonging to the fellowship of the WCC. With regard to the application of the Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim (Nigeria), the Executive Committee **accepted** the recommendation of the Sub-Committee to ask for further study of the questions which prevented the delegation which visited this church in September 2001 from making a unanimous recommendation.

The Executive Committee also **accepted** the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that in future an Orthodox representative be included in each delegation visiting a church that applies for WCC membership.

Mr van Beek also gave notice of applications likely to be submitted to the Executive Committee at its next meeting:
Association of Evangelical Reformed Churches, Burkina Faso

Union of Baptist Churches, Burundi
Lao Evangelical Church, Laos
Protestant Evangelical Church of Guinea
Malabar Independent Syrian Church, India
United Church of Christ, Mozambique (less than 25 000 members)
Presbyterian Church of Colombia (less than 25 000 members)
Christian Pentecostal Church of Cuba (less than 25 000 members)

7 ASSEMBLY PREPARATIONS

HE Metropolitan Dr Gennadios of Sassima introduced the Report of the Assembly Planning Committee, which had met at the Monastic Community of Bose, Italy, 3-7 February 2004. That had been the first meeting of the full APC with the additional members appointed by the Central Committee in August 2003. The APC had begun to enter into detailed planning of agenda, timetable, worship, etc. The APC's next meeting would be at Porto Alegre in November, when they would inspect the venue. Until then much planning would still be provisional. Meanwhile certain actions were requested from the Executive Committee.

Mr Georges Lemopoulos gave a general description of the proposed programme with the basic daily flow. The APC wished to limit the number of business sessions, but was well aware that the consensus model used might require more time to be devoted to business. He also asked if one session for regional meetings was sufficient. Concerning the visitors' programme, what was looked for was not a parallel Ecumenical Social Forum alongside the Assembly but an inclusive event reflecting the variety of the ecumenical movement, with as much of the Assembly as possible open to visitors. Youth involvement was important. He stressed that the limitations of human resources must be respected.

Mr Alexander Belopopsky outlined the Assembly Communications Plan. He stressed the need for simplicity and increased use of new technologies. He

mentioned that there was a serious concern about the much reduced staffing level in this area.

Mr Georges Lemopoulos spoke of the subsidy policy. It had been applied to attendance at Central Committee meetings, with good effect. Concerning the registration fee, a flat fee had originally been proposed, but now a sliding scale was being proposed according to the GDP of the country.

Mr Huibert van Beek introduced the proposed seat allocations. The model had already been decided by the Central Committee in 2003. What was now being presented was its implementation. That was creating problems for larger churches, which were seeing their delegations significantly reduced, and newly united churches, which would have fewer delegates than if they had not united. The Officers were recommending to the Executive Committee that they deal with this problem as follows:

Documented past experiences had shown that some 5% of appointed delegates cancel. In anticipation of this some 35 seats could be allocated to member churches with a strategic (ecclesial, moral or financial) importance for the life of the Council or which had united or decided to opt for joint representation. Such churches might include the Evangelical Church in Germany and the Russian Orthodox Church. It was hoped to have as full a list as possible of delegates appointed by the churches for the Executive Committee meeting in August 2004, and that the 35% Orthodox participation would be achieved without invoking the 15% process. The Central Committee meting in February 2005 would determine the allocation to the churches of the 15% to redress balances, thus giving them one year's notice.

The various proposed actions were allocated to the appropriate sub-committees.

Discussion

In a general discussion, the following points were made:

- Why were the Moderator's and General Secretary's Reports not at the beginning?
- Is one business session for nominations sufficient?
- Why are plenaries in the afternoon?
- Is enough time allocated to relating with local churches?
- Is one session for regional meetings sufficient?
- Is having ten themes and five sub-themes too ambitious and would it result in not enough time being given to formulate guidelines for future WCC work?
- The word 'oficina' has unfortunate connotations for Romanians, so could another word be found?

Mr Georges Lemopoulos, responding, stated that plenaries were in the afternoon, the hottest part of the day, because the plenary hall was air-conditioned. The campus was not residential and participants would be accommodated in the city centre, 20 minutes away. A three-hour lunch break was provided for fellowship, exhibitions and committees. Regional meetings were of varying importance depending on the region. There was certainly a need for a separate first reading of the Nominations Committee Report. There was a deliberate flow to the opening actions (including the Moderator's and the General Secretary's Reports) including maximum use of the air-conditioned plenary hall when outside temperatures were at their highest. The Sunday morning and afternoon would be devoted to interaction with local churches, including the Roman Catholic Church. The 'oficinas' also allow for local church participation. Regarding formulating guidelines for future work, sections (which are primarily for delegates to share with one another) would have one or two members of the Programme Guidelines Committee listening in, who would then feed emerging concerns to the Committee.

Dr Kobia, commenting, declared that sub-themes were critical for the future direction of work. Ecumenism in the 21st century would be different from what it had been in the 20th century, as witness the Special Commission and the Reconfiguration of the Ecumenical Movement. It was important not to have too many sub-themes. In Harare the Programme Guidelines Committee had

been overwhelmed by the number of issues emerging and had not been able fully to complete its work.

Mrs Justice Sophia Adinyira asked if the present list of delegate numbers included the non-active member churches. Mr van Beek, responding, said that the non-active member churches had been written to in January and had been given six months to regularize their position. For the time being, they were still included.

Revd Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick noted that the number of North American delegates had been reduced by application of the Central Committee formula from 137 to 54. He observed that the past spread of delegates had assisted in maintaining widespread support for the WCC.

The Moderator suggested that, while continuing generally to apply the Central Committee formula, some readjustments might be made. There was general agreement and the Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee undertook to consider the matter.

Dean Anders Gadegaard raised the question of churches possibly appointing advisers in addition to their reduced delegations in order to keep up their participant numbers. Various members responded that this would be possible only for rich churches and would result in unbalanced participation.

The discussion was very wide-ranging. Detailed notes were taken and would be made available to the Assembly Planning Committee at their next meeting in November.

8 PUBLIC ISSUES

Mr Peter Weiderud, in a written report, informed members of the Executive Committee of actions on public issues taken since August 2003.

He further proposed actions to be taken by this meeting of the Executive Committee:

- A Statement on Nuclear Disarmament
- A Statement on the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict
- A Minute on Sudan
- A Minute on Zimbabwe.

In view of the accession of Cyprus to the European Union and the possible reunification settlement by 1 May 2004, he proposed giving a full report on Cyprus and proposing a statement to the next Executive Committee meeting in August 2004.

He placed drafts of the proposed statements and minutes before the Committee and spoke to them.

Discussion

Mr John Doom stated that there was one omission from the proposed Statement on Nuclear Disarmament. Mention should also be made of the victims of nuclear testing in the Pacific. Concern should be expressed for them and recognition of the obligation on the powers conducting the tests to pay compensation to victims.

Revd Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick wanted to see mention of the uranium enrichment programme being revived in North Korea.

The Moderator and Dean Anders Gadegaard pleaded for statements to be shorter and thus more effective.

Bishop Dr Rolf Koppe spoke of the problem of criticism of Israel being wrongly interpreted by others as anti-Semitism. He pleaded for a broader approach.

Revd Dr Maake Masango believed that as obedient disciples we should speak the truth.

Dean Anders Gadegaard pointed out that there is a distinction to be made between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism.

Very Revd Leonid Kishkovsky asked whether the WCC had ever issued a statement on anti-Semitism. The General Secretary, responding, did not recall any such statement.

The Moderator indicated that there were particular sensitivities in this area, especially in the churches of the Middle East. He requested that Inter-Religious Dialogue and International Affairs examine the issue.

Mr Peter Weiderud, responding, undertook that the comments made would be examined in the Public Issues Sub-Committee. Regarding the length of statements, he emphasized that some statements are intentionally comprehensive. In such cases, shorter press releases highlighted the salient points.

9 CONSENSUS PROCEDURES

Mr Georges Lemopoulos presented a written report of a consultation held at Bossey earlier in the month. The main purpose of the consultation had been to elaborate a first draft of the new Rules of Procedure for consideration by the Executive Committee. The meeting had been a 'real marathon' and he was grateful to all participants, and also particularly to friends of the Uniting Church in Australia, Dr Jill Talbert, who had been present at the consultation, and Revd Dr D'Arcy Wood, who had prepared the initial draft of the rules for their consideration. He presented to the Committee the draft of a revised Rule XVI, renamed 'Conduct of Meetings (see Appendix III) and a further draft of a 'Manual for Meeting Procedures - Consensus'. The Committee was asked to receive these and they would then be shared with member churches and Central Committee members for comment. The Executive Committee at its next meeting in August 2004 would finalize the new framework for presentation to Central Committee in February 2005 for their final adoption

for use at the 9th Assembly. Meanwhile the consensus method would be tested at the next Central Committee meeting.

Executive Committee members were each presented with a copy of the Risk Book 'Coming to Consensus' by Jill Talbert, describing the introduction of consensus procedures into the Uniting Church in Australia.

The Executive Committee expressed appreciation of the work done, clarifications were given, and the requested actions were passed to the Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee for detailed consideration.

The Sub-Committee **recommended**:

a) To receive the Draft Rule XVI: Conduct of Meetings (Appendix III) and the Working Draft of the Manual for Meeting Procedures;
b) To include the provision for moving to voting procedures (Draft Rule XVI, para 8d/iv and f) in the draft document to be shared with the member churches;
c) To authorize that, according to the recommendation of the Central Committee, the two Draft documents be shared with member churches and members of the Central Committee for their information and eventual comment. In the light of comments received the drafts will be revised to enable the Executive Committee at its meeting in August 2004 to finalize the new framework.

The Sub-Committee further **recommended**:

to start with the gradual testing of the consensus procedures as soon as possible;
specific training in conducting meetings for all session moderators as well as for delegates;

The Executive Committee **accepted** these recommendations.

10 PRE-ASSEMBLY EVALUATION

Dr Marion Best presented a document 'Proposed Terms of Reference: Pre-Assembly Programme Evaluation'. There had been a mid-term evaluation of the activities and programmes of the WCC presented to the Central Committee at its 2002 meeting. Building on it, the Programme Committee had recommended that an external evaluation of the Council's programmatic work take place from the perspective of the member churches and the wider constituency.

A timetable was presented, providing for presentation of a report to the Programme Committee of the Central Committee in February 2005. The Central Committee would then receive comments and recommendations from the Programme Committee and provide guidance for finalizing the report in July 2005.

The evaluation would thus provide delegates to the 2006 Assembly with an assessment of the programmatic work of the Council since the Harare Assembly. An executive summary of its findings would be included in the report 'From Harare to Porto Alegre' and the full report would be presented to the Assembly Programme Guidelines Committee.

There was discussion regarding the timetable. Could not the report be presented to the Executive Committee in September 2005, thus removing the pressure from having to present it to Central Committee as early as February 2005? The Central Committee is, however, the body ultimately responsible and should approve it; and for it to be sent to Assembly delegates it would have to be completed by July 2005. There was discussion on how to assess the fellowship element in the evaluation of the programmatic work. While fellowship is difficult to evaluate, it cannot be ignored. The Council is not simply an organization, but a fellowship with organizational manifestations. The terms of reference would need to be expanded to allow for this. There was discussion on the proposed composition of the team. Would an external evaluator understand the Council sufficiently? On the other hand, if there are

negative perceptions, we need to hear them and understand the reason for them.

There were four names proposed to form the evaluation team: Dr Marion Best, Dr Georges Tsetsis, Ms Sylvia Raulo (who had been a member of the mid-term evaluation team), and Dr William Ogara (Senior Consultant for Evaluation in the Christian Organization Research and Advisory Trust). Dr Ogara would be hired through his organization and would be paid a consultancy fee. It was essential to employ a professional for the task, as the other proposed members of the evaluation team had other major commitments.

The proposed terms of reference and the composition of the evaluation team were passed to the Programme Sub-Committee for detailed consideration.

11 EVALUATION OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE 2003

Mr Georges Lemopoulos presented a report on the evaluations by participants of the 2003 Central Committee meeting. Eighty evaluation forms had been distributed and thirty-nine returned. Central Committee members had recognized the efforts made by staff in negotiating a new deal with the hotel. In all there had been a saving of CHF 230,000 in the 2003 meeting compared with 2002 (CHF 700,000 over against CHF 930,000). This had been achieved by having a meeting shorter by three days, holding committee meetings at the Ecumenical Centre instead of the hotel, there being nine fewer subsidized delegates and a lower accommodation cost. Many of the comments made were constantly recurring ones, but there had been particularly positive comments on the hearings and on the increased opportunities for engaging one another.

In subsequent discussion concern was once again expressed at the number of Central Committee members who left before the completion of business.

12 INSTALLATION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

A capacity congregation gathered in the Chapel of the Ecumenical Centre on the evening of 18 February for the Service of Installation of Revd Dr Samuel Kobia as General Secretary. His Holiness Aram I, Moderator of the Central Committee presided.

Greetings were conveyed by Revd Thomas Wipf, President of the Council of the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches. He stated that Switzerland had always regarded it as a privilege to host the WCC General Secretariat and still felt proud of it. While perhaps there had been times when more enthusiasm about the cause of the WCC could be felt than at present and the ecumenical truth of our time was rather painful, the WCC remained the focus of great ecumenical hopes, and for this task and mission the churches in Switzerland sent Dr Kobia their very best wishes. He assured Dr Kobia that the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches would continue its engagement in the World Council of Churches and above all prayed that God's blessings would be upon him.

The preacher was Revd Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick, who spoke of his first meeting Dr Kobia on a tennis court at the Vancouver Assembly. Since then the ecumenical scene had changed from a time of ecumenical enthusiasm and commitment to a more difficult time, when the calling to Christian unity and ecumenical ministry was a counter-cultural calling. Referring to the Old Testament reading, Esther 4: 12-17, he said that we believed Sam to have been called to be General Secretary 'for just such a time as this'. Expounding the New Testament reading, Ephesians 4: 1-7; 11-16, he declared that God is one and intends God's church to be one, not by being all alike, but, in our great diversity, called to be one in Christ. Referring to the Moderator's Report to the previous Central Committee, he declared that good relations between the religions were essential in today's world. In closing, he quoted the African proverb mentioned by Dr Kobia in his acceptance speech: 'Those who want to go fast, go alone; those who want to go far, go together.' We were people called to go far in the cause of Christ, which we could do only if we go

together. He prayed that God would richly bless Dr Kobia and us as partners together on that journey.

The Act of Installation of Revd Dr Samuel Kobia as General Secretary of the World Council of Churches was conducted by His Holiness Aram I.

The service was followed by a buffet reception in the lobby of the Ecumenical Centre.

13 REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ISSUES SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr Peter Weiderud, presenting the report of the Public Issues Sub-Committee, said that they had had a good discussion. The Sub-Committee had redrafted the Statement on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but the Statement on the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel's Annexation of Palestinian Territory, the Minute on India Pakistan Composite Dialogue and the Minute on Sudan remained essentially the same as the first draft. It had not proved possible to shorten the Statement on Israel/Palestine, but a press release had been prepared, referring to the full statement, which press release he read out. Its final version would be prepared in consultation with the press office.

Various comments and proposals for minor amendments were made by members of the Committee and Mr Weiderud responded.

The Executive Committee **adopted** the following Statements and Minutes:

WCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, NPT

(Adopted on 19th February 2004)

The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Geneva from 17-20 February, 2004,

Affirming yet again our belief that the only ultimate protection against nuclear weapons, is their total elimination;
Responding to the urgent public concern given to nuclear weapons and the risk of proliferation of these weapons;
Reaffirming the persistent witness of the churches, that nuclear weapons cannot bring security and that nuclear arsenals "deliver only insecurity and peril through their promise to annihilate life itself and to ravage the global ecosystem" through which God sustains all earthly life;
Recognizing the suffering of the many victims of nuclear testing, in particular in the Pacific and the former Soviet Union;
Recalling the "Statement on Nuclear Disarmament" of the WCC Central Committee (29 January – 6 February 2001) that the post-Cold War opportunity to make major advances toward the elimination of nuclear weapons is being lost due to the failure of states to honor their unambiguous obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the undertakings solemnly agreed to in the May 2000 NPT Review Conference; and
Noting that the forthcoming 2005 NPT Review Conference affords a new opportunity to reinvigorate nuclear disarmament commitments and efforts;

The Executive Committee;

Reiterates its grave and ongoing concern that certain policies and practices of nuclear weapon states undermine international progress toward nuclear disarmament, and draws attention to:
Continuing efforts by the United States to develop new generations of nuclear weapons;
The abrogation by the United States of the Anti- Ballistic Missile Treaty, and US pursuit of strategic ballistic missile defence in spite of is destabilizing impact on the international strategic environment;
Assertion by the United States of nuclear use doctrines, including threats to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states party to the NPT, that undercut negative security assurances;
The failure of China, India, Israel, Pakistan, North Korea, and the United States to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

The revival of the uranium enrichment program of North Korea;
Russia's failure to undertake verifiable reductions of its non-strategic nuclear weapons;
The dangerous practice in Russia and the United States of maintaining strategic weapons on ongoing high alert status;
The failure of the Russia-US Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty to require the permanent dismantling of warheads removed from active deployment;
China's measures to expand and upgrade its strategic nuclear arsenal;
NATO's "nuclear sharing" policy which places nuclear weapons on the territories of non-nuclear states party to the NPT;
NATO's continuing assertion of that nuclear weapons are "essential" to its security, and its pledge to retain them for the foreseeable future; and
The continued retention of nuclear weapons by Israel, Pakistan and India and the failure of the international to seriously challenge these violations of the international norm against nuclear weapons acquisition;

Welcomes the ongoing struggle of many governments and civil society groups to advance nuclear disarmament and to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, and draws attention to:
The decision of the Government of Libya to disavow the pursuit of nuclear weapons ands to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection;
The decision of the Government of Iran to accept the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) additional protocol and to open its facilities to more intensive inspections;
The continuing efforts, especially by China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States, to engage North Korea in pursuit of a full commitment to permanently forego the pursuit of nuclear weapons and to recommit to the NPT as a non-nuclear state party;
The 2002 G8 pledge of $20 billion in support of the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, with a priority focus on securing Russia's nuclear materials; and
The role of civil society organizations around the world in continuing to undertake research and public advocacy in support of the urgent objective of eliminating nuclear weapons;

Urges all States to make renewed and unprecedented efforts to ensure that the current NPT Review Process, leading to the 2005 NPT Review Conference, reinvigorates nuclear disarmament efforts, leads states to recommit to the principles and goals of the NPT, and sets the world on a path toward the final elimination of nuclear weapons through support for a series of bold measures, including

A halt to all nuclear weapons research and development;

The early approval and ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT);

Rejection of strategic Ballistic Missile Defence;

Pledges by all nuclear weapon states, in a series of interim measures, to:

never be the first to use nuclear weapons,

fulfil their unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, to which all States Parties are committed under Article VI of the NPT,

never use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states party to the NPT;

permanently remove their nuclear weapons from high-alert status;

permanently remove all nuclear weapons from the territories of non-nuclear weapon states;

Steps by Russia and the United States to make all their nuclear disarmament agreements irreversible through requirements to permanently dismantle all weapons removed from active deployment;

Early commitment to the commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty;

Efforts by Global Partnership states to accelerate implementation of Partnership objectives; and

A recommitment to preventing the horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons technology by:

providing the political and material support necessary to enable the IAEA to carry out its responsibilities,

continuing to press Iran and North Korea to abandon all uranium enrichment and plutonium extraction efforts toward a fully verifiable return to a status of non-nuclear states party to the NPT;

Providing for the return of international inspectors to Iraq to verify its full compliance with its obligation as a non-nuclear party to the NPT;
Commitment by all States to uphold and strengthen the multilateral framework for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;

Encourages civil society organizations to:
Continue to monitor nuclear weapons issues and developments;
Continue to challenge states to redouble their nuclear disarmament efforts in accord with the requirement of the NPT and, especially, in accord with the requirements for human security;
Urge the states responsible for carrying out nuclear tests, that adequate compensation should be given to victims of these tests;

Calls on churches in the context of the Decade to Overcome Violence to renew their witness for peace and disarmament through education, public awareness building and advocacy to overcome the continuing threat of nuclear weapons; and

Asks the WCC to continue to:
Monitor nuclear disarmament efforts generally;
Encourage NATO governments to renounce their reliance on nuclear weapons; and
Explore ways of promoting attention to nuclear disarmament in Israel, Pakistan and India.

STATEMENT ON THE WALL IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES AND ISRAEL'S ANNEXATION OF PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

(Adopted on 19th February, 2004)

> *For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.* (Eph. 2:14)

The WCC Executive Committee, meeting in Geneva from 17-20 February, 2004 guided by the teachings and Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility and by his death and resurrection has promised one new humanity on the foundation of faithful witnesses for people of every race; having received an updated report on Israel's construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and in and around East Jerusalem, since April 2002, which is in departure of the Armistice Line of 1949 (Green Line) and is in contradiction to relevant provisions of international law is;

Gravely concerned about the fundamental violations of human rights of the Palestinian people, the confiscation and destruction of their land and resources, the disruption of the lives of thousands of protected civilians and the de facto annexation of large areas of territory and in particular its devastating humanitarian consequences on the life and dignity of innocent Palestinians,

Recalling the WCC Central Committee minute of September 2003 and relevant WCC policy statements on Israel-Palestine,

Noting the alarming statements and reports from the Heads of Churches of Jerusalem, WCC member churches and councils of churches, the Holy See, Ecumenical Accompaniers, the Secretary General of the United Nations, relevant United Nations agencies and independent human rights organisations,

Respecting the established principle of international law on the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force contained in the Kellog-Briand Pact of 1928 and Article 2, paragraph 4 of the Charter of the UN; the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention as well as Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions to the OPT, including East Jerusalem and the Hague Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land of 1907,

Recalling also all relevant United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions,

Strongly condemning all forms of violence and attacks perpetrated by the State of Israel and its Defence Forces inside the OPT and by Palestinian armed groups against innocent civilians inside the State of Israel,

Recognizing Israel's right and duty to protect its people against attacks and suicide bombers inside the State of Israel, without contravening international law and jeopardising longer term prospects for peace,

Acknowledging the Palestinian peoples right for resistance against the Israeli occupation inside the Occupied Palestinian Territories, without resorting to terror and creating indiscriminate fear among civilians,

Reiterating our belief that all people have the right and duty to struggle against injustice and oppression,

Reaffirming its strong conviction that non-violent means of resistance and peaceful negotiations are the only way to achieve a lasting, viable solution to the Arab- Israeli conflict,

Noting that the route of the wall and the scope of its construction give no indication that it is either a temporary measure or dictated solely by security needs,

Concerned that this act could prejudge future negotiations and make a two-state solution physically impossible and become a major obstacle to a just and sustainable peace between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples;
The WCC Executive Committee**,**

Acknowledges that Israel has serious and legitimate security concerns and that the construction of a wall on its own territory would not have been in contravention of international law,

Considers, nevertheless, the construction and location of this wall in grave breach of international humanitarian law as enunciated inter alia by the Fourth Geneva Convention and the State of Israel in violation of the Charter of the

United Nations and fundamental principles of international law: the prohibition on the forcible acquisition of territory and the right to self-determination as well as application of universal human rights principles and standards,

Strongly condemns the violations of human rights and humanitarian consequences as a result of this act, in particular the restrictions on access by Palestinians to the closed area between the wall and the Green Line and the limited passage through the wall, violating right to liberty of movement; The resulting obstacles to access to workplaces, farmland, health services and schools, demolition of houses and uprooting of trees for the construction of the wall violating the right to work, the right to adequate standard of living including housing, the right to health care and the right to education; the different requirements for Palestinians and Israelis to obtain permits to be granted access to and remain in the closed area violating the right to equality before the law,

Rejects the creation of a new political boundary that defines enclaves in which the Palestinians will be confined, extending Israeli civilian and military presence inside Palestinian territory, undermining all peacemaking efforts and most importantly the whole concept of a viable and contiguous Palestinian State established side by side the State of Israel,

Demands that Israel stop and reverse the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including in and around East Jerusalem, which is in departure of the Armistice Line of 1949 and is in contradiction to relevant provisions of international law;

Calls on the Israeli Government and its defence forces and as well as all Palestinian armed groups to give up their strategy of mutual killings and terror, in order to achieve lasting peace,

States that only through an end of the Israeli occupation and a just, comprehensive and lasting peace settlement based on Security Council resolutions 242(1967) and 338 (1973) can security of both Palestinians and

Israelis be assured,

Supports a two-state solution – Israelis and Palestinians living side by side in peace and security within secure and recognized borders, as called for by the UN Security Council in resolutions 1397 (2002) and 1515(2003).

Welcomes the hearing of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to provide its advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the construction of this wall and wishes to draw the attention of the Court as well as all States of the immense human costs paid by the Palestinian people and its long-term consequences on peace and reconciliation,

Expresses its deep concern to the ICJ to consider if the construction of the wall affects the Status Quo of the Holy Places in any way,

Calls on all WCC member Churches, Ecumenical Councils of Churches, Christian World Communions and specialized ministries of churches to condemn the wall as an act of unlawful annexation in the language of Security Council resolutions 478 (1980) and 497 (1981) which declare that Israel's actions at the annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights are "null and void" and should not be recognized by any States.

Requests the ecumenical fellowship to intensify their advocacy efforts against the Israeli occupation of Palestinian Territories since 1967, in particular the creation of the wall, and support peacemaking initiatives, such as the Geneva Initiative, always in coordination and cooperation with one another and the WCC.

Encourages Christians world wide to continue their prayers for justice, peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land for the breakdown of the dividing wall of the hostility between people.

The WCC Executive Committee recognizes and reaffirms the work of the *Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel*, its sponsors and coordinators and prays for the courageous Ecumenical Accompaniers who

volunteer to represent the ecumenical fellowship in solidarity and active non-violent presence with the Churches, Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities in Israel and the Palestinian Occupied Territories, including Jerusalem.

MINUTE ON INDIA PAKISTAN COMPOSITE DIALOGUE

(Adopted on 19th February 2004)

The Executive Committee recalled the statement of WCC Central Committee, August –September 2002, on the situation in South Asia particularly the heightened state of military confrontation between India and Pakistan. It called on member churches including those in the two countries to promote healing and reconciliation between the two nuclear neighbours. As a follow up to the Central Committee statement, WCC convened a Consultation of South Asian church leaders in August 2003, in Colombo, Sri Lanka that urged the churches in the two countries to engage in confidence building measures and actively participate in people to people exchange programmes.

The Executive Committee welcomed the statement made by India and Pakistan on 6th January after the meeting between Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Pervez Musharraf during the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit in Islamabad. It appreciated the agreement made between the two leaders to commence the process of composite dialogue in February 2004 and expressed confidence that resumption of such dialogue will promote progress towards the common objective of peace, security and economic development for their people and for the future generations.

The churches in India and Pakistan have welcomed this initiative and consider it a new chapter in peace-building in the region. Special prayers have been offered for the leaders as they prepare to engage in this historical process to usher in an era of peace and reconciliation after years of confrontation and hostility.

The Executive Committee taking cognisance of these developments:

- reiterates the WCC's expression of solidarity and continuing prayers for the people and churches in Pakistan and India;
- urges the two countries to sign and ratify the Non-Proliferation Treaty, NPT;
- reaffirms its support for the people and churches in Pakistan and India as they continue their efforts to promote peace and reconciliation;
- calls upon WCC to continue to monitor developments and to support and encourage the churches and ecumenical bodies in the region in their efforts to promote a nuclear free zone to ensure just and lasting peace in South Asia.

MINUTE ON SUDAN

(Adopted on 19th February 2004)

In January/February 2001, the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches adopted a major statement on the situation of the conflict in Sudan in which it inter-alia appealed to member churches of the Council to intensify their efforts to encourage and support the joint peace initiative of Sudan Council of Churches and the New Sudan Council of Churches. It also reiterated its conviction that lasting peace in Sudan must be negotiated with support of partner states in the region through the IGAD Peace Process and the Declaration of Principles enunciated thereunder.

The Executive Committee meeting in Geneva February 2004 welcomed the progress made by the Peace Process in Sudan and appreciated the work done by the Sudan Ecumenical Forum in support thereof. It however, noted with concern that some intricate issues like sharing of political power, integration of armed forces of government of Sudan and Sudan People's Liberation Movement, and application of Sharia law, given the provisions of the Machakos Protocol, still need to be addressed. Also, the status of the so-called "marginalised areas" - the Nuba Mountains, Southern Blue Nile, and Abyei need to be resolved soon to prevent the situation from becoming an obstacle in search of just and lasting peace. The recent reports of international agencies

not being able to deliver much needed aid and assistance to people of Darfur are greatly disturbing. The situation in this area is troubling and explosive. There is a risk that if the fighting continue between the Government of Sudan and the two rebel groups, the whole peace process may be jeopardised.

The Executive Committee acknowledges the excellent contribution of IGAD, under the leadership of the Kenyan mediator, Lt. Gen. Lazaro K. Sumbeiywo, and the 'troika' countries of the United States, the United Kingdom and Norway in their efforts to bring an end to Sudan's twenty years civil war. The Committee is encouraged by the success of the IGAD Peace Process as a regional initiative of ground-breaking magnitude. It is a sign of hope for Africa that given the political will and determination, the people of the region can resolve their disputes and conflicts.

The Executive Committee
reiterates the WCC's expression of solidarity and continuing prayers for the people and churches in Sudan as they intensify efforts towards a comprehensive and just peace for all the people of Sudan.
encourages the churches in Sudan to continue to pursue their efforts for 'south-south' and 'south-north' dialogue to enhance the process of healing and reconciliation in the country as a whole.
urges the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to bring the Peace Process as soon as possible to a final conclusion, in order for the reconstruction of the country to begin.
calls upon the WCC to continue to monitor developments through the Sudan Ecumenical Forum particularly, in respect of the on-going conflict in the western region of Darfur that has resulted in an alarming deterioration in the humanitarian and human rights situation and threatens to unravel the gains made in the peace process; and in respect of disarmament, demobilisation and the threat of small arms and light weapons that pose a major challenge to a sustainable peace in Sudan.
calls to the attention of member churches and related agencies of the need to prepare for large scale reconstruction and rehabilitation tasks and the humanitarian needs in the post-conflict period and urges them to respond generously through the Action of Churches Together.

14 REPORT OF THE STAFFFING AND NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Mrs Justice Sophia Adinyira presented the report of the Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee.

14.1 Assembly Seat Allocation

The Sub-Committee discussed the allocation of seats, taking into account the comments made during the plenary discussion of the Executive Committee and the proposals of the Officers regarding the representation of large member churches. The Committee also looked at the actions of the Central Committee on seat allocation for the Ninth Assembly, in particular that the total number of delegates (85% + 15%) should not significantly exceed 700.

The Sub-Committee **recommended** to the Executive Committee:

1) To raise the total number of delegates to 728, in order to lower the scale for churches with 3 delegates to 2.500.000 and thereby increase the number of churches with 3 delegates, considering that an increase of 4% is within the Central Committee requirement of not exceeding significantly the ceiling of 700.
2) In taking this decision, the Executive Committee satisfied itself that the 4% increase shall not affect the budgeted amount for subsidies which will remain the same.
3) To use the statistical margin of 5% unoccupied seats for the allocation of additional seats to the following churches:
   3.1) Evangelical Church in Germany: 7 additional seats
   total number: 17
   3.2) Romanian Orthodox Church: 2 additional seats
   total number: 12

3.3) United Methodist Church: number of additional seats to be fixed in consultation with the church.

3.4) Protestant Church in the Netherlands 2 additional seats
total number : 5

(Allocation of seats to member churches which unite in the period between two successive assemblies).

3.5) Moravian Church in America: 1 additional seat
total number: 2

(Allocation of seats to member churches which apply for single membership in the period between two successive assemblies).

4) To approve the list of seats allocated to the member churches according to the new total and the new scale.

With regard to the proposal of the Officers to create a new category "Advisors to the Delegation" the Sub-Committee noted that this was no longer necessary to solve the problem of representation of large member churches at this stage of the process of seat allocation. Taking into account the opinion of the Assembly Planning Committee, the Sub-Committee **recommended** to the Executive Committee to keep the proposal on hold for possible future consideration by the Officers and the Executive Committee if required.

The Sub-Committee noted with concern that the reduction of the size of delegations to the assembly, especially of the larger churches, may in the long run have an adverse impact on the support base for the World Council of Churches in these churches. The Committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee ask the General Secretary to reflect on how best the Council can make use of the Ecumenical Officers of member churches to strengthen the support for the WCC in the churches, including in relation to the Ninth Assembly, and to bring proposals to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Sub-Committee **recommended** to the Executive Committee to approve the procedure and guidelines for the appointment and composition of the delegations to the Ninth Assembly as proposed.

Discussion

Dean Anders Gadegaard asked why the Evangelical Church in Germany had such a large increase in their number of seats.

Mr van Beek, responding, stated that five of the Landeskirchen held direct membership of the WCC in their own right. They would now be directly represented.

The Executive Committee **accepted** these recommendations.

14.2 Nominations

Presidents
The Sub-Committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee request the Central Committee to confirm by postal vote the nomination of Dr Bernice Powell Jackson (United Church of Christ) as President of the North America region.

Central Committee
The Sub-Committee **recommended**:
to approve the request of the Russian Orthodox Church to replace Mr Georgy Roschin by Priest Andrei Eliseev;
to communicate to the United Church of Christ (USA) the expectation that Dr Bernice Powell Jackson be replaced by a woman, preferably a young woman, and that a proposal to this effect be submitted to the meeting of the Executive Committee in August 2004;
to invite the churches concerned to submit proposals for the replacement of Laura Saavedra (Uruguay) and Leo Ratuwalangon (Indonesia), respectively, to the Executive Committee in August 2004.

Assembly Worship Committee
The Sub-Committee **recommended** that Ms Gwen Cashmore replace Revd John Bell, that Revd Susan Henry Crowe replace Revd Dr Karen Westfield Tucker, and that Ms Phebe Gamata Crismo replace Ms Imelda Simangunsong.

Global Christian Forum
The Sub-Committee **recommended** the approval of the appointment of Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson to the Continuation Committee of the Global Christian Forum as WCC representative.

Commissions
The Sub-Committee **recommended** the replacement of Diana Harutiunyan by Dr Karen Nazaryan on the JPC Commission.

Discussion

Dr Marion Best, concerning the President of the North American region, asked for further comment from colleagues from the United States.

Very Revd Leonid Kishkovsky believed that another name, that of a man, was being proposed instead of Dr Bernice Powell Jackson.

Revd Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick wondered if the WCC should include in its Rules the requirement that a replacement should be in the same category as the person replaced.

The General Secretary said that Dr Raiser had written to the United Church of Christ USA requesting the nomination of a preferably young woman.

The Executive Committee **accepted** these recommendations.

The full membership of the Assembly Worship Committee was thus now:

Metr. Prof Dr Gennadios of Sassima, Eastern Orthodox, Turkey (Mod.) (M)
Rev. Cybele Kuss, Lutheran, Brazil (Vice-Mod.) (F)
Mr Daniel Apii, Christian Church, Cook Islands (M)
Ms Gwen Cashmore, Anglican, UK (F)
Rev. Andrei Eliseev, Eastern Orthodox, Russia (M/Y)
Bishop Dr. Richard Aboagye Mensah, Methodist, Ghana (M)
Ms Phebe Gamata Crismo, United Methodist Church, Philippines (F)
Ms Sasha Lumsten, Anglican, Jamaica (F/Y)
Fr Jean Kawak, Oriental Orthodox, Syria (M)
Rev. Susan Henry Crowe, United Methodist Church, USA (F)

Consultants:

Rev. John Bell, Presbyterian, Scotland (M)
Rev. Fr Jorge Scampini O.P., Roman Catholic, Argentina (M)
Rev Gerardo Oberman, Reformed, Argentina (CLAI) (M)

14.3 World Conference on Religion and Peace

The Sub-Committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee
welcome the recent conversations and correspondence between the General Secretary of the WCC and the Secretary General of the WCRP;
recall that the Canberra Assembly commended "development of relations and collaboration with the WCRP";
note that Dr Agnes Abuom, WCC President (Africa), and Very Revd Leonid Kishkovsky, member of the WCC Central and Executive Committees, serve also on the governing body of the WCRP;
note, also, that both WCC and WCRP are present in the same regions through partnerships with regional structures, and in numerous instances share the same members and partners;
note, finally, that the WCC and the WCRP are sometimes present in the same areas of conflict in pursuit of the same goal of reconciliation, inter-religious and inter-communal dialogue and peace.

The Sub-Committee further **recommended** that the Executive Committee affirm the Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky as a member of the Executive Committee and as Vice-Moderator of WCRP, and Dr Agnes Abuom in the role of WCC/WCRP liaison, encourage the General Secretary, in co-operation with the Secretary General of WCRP, to continue to develop relations and collaboration, and to establish, as necessary, mechanisms and understandings of collaboration.

The Executive Committee **accepted** these recommendations.

14.4 Staff Rules

The Sub-Committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee approve the following amendments to the Staff Rules:
Rule VI 1.04 to read:

a) Disciplinary measures may take the form of a warning, a written reprimand, suspension, dismissal, or summary dismissal on legitimate grounds in accordance with Art. 337 of the Swiss Code of Obligations.

b) A new article to be added to "Disciplinary Measures/Disputes and Appeals" reading as follows:

Rule VI 2.03 Staff members shall retain the right of recourse to legal authorities.

The General Secretary commented that the changes were necessary to comply with Swiss law and had been recommended by the Council's lawyer. They were not substantial changes.

The Executive Committee **accepted** this recommendation.

14.5 Staffing

In closed session, the General Secretary presented the staffing report. There were no new appointments to be made. Upon the **recommendation** of the Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee the Executive Committee **approved** the following contract extensions:

MANAGEMENT
IMD (Income Monitoring and Development)
Mr Michiel **Hardon** (Netherlands, Netherlands Reformed Church), IMD Manager/TC, 3 years from 1 April 2005

PROGRAMME
Mission and Ecumenical Formation
Rev. Carlos **Ham** (Cuba, Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba, Programme Executive for Evangelism/TC, 3 years from 1 March 2005
Ms Tara **Tautari Barua** (Aotearoa-New Zealand, The Methodist Church of New Zealand), Programme Executive for Scholarships, 3 years from 1 February 2005

Justice, Peace and Creation
Rev. Dr Martin **Robra** (Federal Republic of Germany, EKD (United)), Programme Executive for Economy and Justice, indefinite contract from 1 February 2005

International Affairs, Peace and Human Security
Dr Guillermo **Kerber Mas** (Uruguay, Roman Catholic Church), Programme Executive, Focus on Latin America and Caribbean, 3 years from 1 February 2005

The following departures were notified:

MANAGEMENT
Directorate

Ms Joan **Geuss** (USA, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), 31 August 2004

PROGRAMME
Justice, Peace and Creation
Rev. Freddy **Knutsen** (Norway, Church of Norway), 30 September 2004 (to be confirmed)

International Affairs, Peace and Human Security
Ms Salpy **Eskidjian** (Cyprus, Armenian Apostolic Church (Oriental)), 31 August 2004

Faith and Order
Rev. Dr Alan **Falconer** (UK, Church of Scotland), 2004

Concerning vacancies, there were two:

PROGRAMME
International Affairs, Peace and Human Security
Programme Executive, Focus on Middle East - Disarmament (replacement Salpy Eskidjian)

Faith and Order
Director, Commission on Faith and Order/TC (replacement of Alan Falconer)

The vacancy in International Affairs Peace and Security had already been opened by decision of the Officers.

There was discussion on the impending vacancy in the post of Faith and Order Director. Concern was expressed at the departure of Dr Falconer shortly before the meeting of the Faith and Order Plenary Commission on his call to Aberdeen Cathedral.

Metropolitan Dr Gennadios informed the Committee that Aberdeen had been vacant for one year and could not be persuaded to wait for Dr Falconer until after the Plenary Commission meeting. However, most of the preparatory work for the meeting would have been done before Dr Falconer left. He further explained the procedure for the appointment of the Faith and Order Director. Interviews for the post could be held in July; a name could be presented to the Faith and Order Standing Commission, which would make a recommendation to the Executive Committee for them to make the appointment at their next meeting in August. It was hoped that the person appointed could take up the post in January 2005.

The General Secretary reassured the Executive Committee that it was within their competence to make this appointment.

The Executive Committee **agreed** to open the vacancy of the post of Director, Commission on Faith and Order.

15 REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dean Anders Gadegaard presented the report of the Finance Sub-Committee.

15.1 Forecasting Mechanisms

The Sub-Committee reviewed the draft 2003 results and concluded that these were satisfactory.
It was recognized that an atmosphere of financial caution had prevailed during 2003. As a result, certain Core Programmes or activities reported new unspent balances, which will have consequences for 2004 forecasting and planning.

The Sub-Committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee request staff to develop and further improve forecasting mechanisms to highlight cases where programme expenditure might be responsibly increased over budget, should there be savings in infrastructure or other costs.

The Executive Committee **accepted** this recommendation.

15.2 Draft Financial Statement and Implementation of the Funds and Reserves Policy

The Sub-Committee acknowledged the efforts made to comply with the Policy.

The Sub-Committee **recommended** that Executive Committee require that to meet the requirements of the Policy, the closing transactions to Reserves be submitted to the Finance Officers of the Sub-Committee for approval by e-mail, with appropriate explanatory notes.

The Executive Committee **accepted** this recommendation.

15.3 2004 Budget and Forecast

The Sub-Committee heard a report from staff on issues with impact on the 2004 Approved budget and the resultant current Forecast.

In conclusion, the Sub-Committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee request that:

15.3.1 income and expenditure planned for the residential building and for the Eastern European offices be included in the Budget, with appropriate explanatory notes ensuring reconciliation with the Approved Budget;

15.3.2 the Approved Budget be presented in the format of Restricted and Unrestricted Funds, in compliance with the Funds and Reserves Policy;

15.3.3 interest income from the General Funds anticipated in 2004 be set aside for the General Reserve;

15.3.4 a capital expenditure plan be prepared to address the requirements for building and equipment renovation at the Ecumenical Centre; and the

plan be presented at the Sub-committee meeting in August 2004, for inclusion from 2005 onwards;

15.3.5 understanding the importance and urgency of organizing the Inter-religious conference, the Council recognize the conference as a priority within its programme planning, while making efforts to obtain a secondment of additional staff. Any special fund-raising efforts should be without adverse effect to other programmatic or assembly income;

15.3.6 Programme Fund balances brought forward as a result of lower spending in 2003 be accommodated in the 2004 Forecast, with increased expenditure as a result;

15.3.7 where required based on funding partner agreements, adjustments be made in forecast activities income where it may be anticipated that a funding partner's instalment may be revised as a consequence of 2003 results.

Discussion

Dr Marion Best, commenting on 15.3.5 emphasized that any special fund-raising efforts for the Inter-Religious Conference must have no adverse effect on other programmatic or Assembly income and proposed an amendment to that effect (cf. 16.1.3).

The General Secretary agreed that any such funding must be completely outside the existing budget. It would cost at least CHF 250,000. Dr Best's amendment was accepted.

The Executive Committee **accepted** these recommendations **as amended**.

15.4 Capital Expenditure Plans

The Sub-Committee reviewed a proposal for the renovation of Petit-Bossey, the student residence building, which is in poor state of repair. The proposal estimated the renovation cost at CHF 855,000.

The Sub-Committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee endorse the Sub-Committee's recommendation that the renovation work be undertaken, recognizing its importance and urgency. In addition, the Sub-Committee **recommended**

- that prior to approval, Executive Committee require that a detailed financial plan be prepared, including:

- draft loan terms and conditions
- details supporting the increased income to be generated following the renovation, and justifying that the servicing of the loan can be contained within a balanced budget
- an "unforeseen costs" line of 10%-15% of the project

- that after approval by SLG, the detailed plan be submitted to the Officers of the Finance committee for ratification.

Discussion

Dean Anders Gadegaard emphasized the urgency of renovation to Petit-Bossey giving the view that it would be a mistake not to renovate immediately. Some of the previous loan offers authorized for Bossey itself had not been taken up and so it was expected that the bank would look favourably on such a request. The project could be contained within the overall Bossey budgeting plan.

Ms Elaine Dykes reported that the renovated Château de Bossey was already generating more income than budgeted and a renovated Petit-Bossey could be expected to further enhance income. She also outlined the types of mortgage available in Switzerland.

The Moderator hoped that that the increasing support for Bossey would enable a supplementary fund-raising drive to be launched.

The Executive Committee **accepted** these recommendations.

15.5 Budget 2005

Following the approval of the Framework Budget 2005 by Central Committee in August 2003, the Sub-Committee reviewed the more detailed draft Budget 2005.

The Sub-Committee **recommended** that Executive Committee request the following:

- that the draft Budget 2005 be amended to include the following elements:
    - revision of repairs and maintenance costs in accordance with a preliminary estimate before finalization of the long term plan for building and equipment renovation described above
    - revision of the Programme Fund balances brought forward, incorporating the results of the revisions to Forecast 2004 described above
- that amendments to the draft Budget 2005 not change the Unrestricted Fund surplus; the goal of CHF 1 million to be added to the reserves is to be preserved.
- that the revised draft Budget 2005 be shared with the Finance Sub-Committee before the Round Table in April and be presented at that meeting as a working budget.

- that the Officers of the Executive Committee be authorized to approve revised draft Budget 2005 at their meeting in June 2004.

The Executive Committee **accepted** this recommendation.

15.6 Membership Income

The Sub-Committee reviewed the report on membership income, noting that although an increased percentage of churches contributed, total membership income had decreased slightly in 2003.

The Sub-Committee discussed what guidance might be given to encourage churches' commitment to contributing fully under the new membership fee structure. It was discussed whether democratic rights or rights to subsidies at the Assembly should be affected where there is no evidence that the church is committed to working towards its financial responsibilities under the new membership fee structure. Such commitment would include engaging in dialogue with the special Sub-group formed at Central Committee to negotiate the fee.

The Sub-Committee **recommended** that Executive Committee request staff to prepare proposals in this respect, which are to be submitted at Executive Committee in August 2004.

Dean Gadegaard emphasized that if a church shows willingness to contribute under the new membership fee structure there would be no immediate implementation of the rules. It was also too early to give a projection of the level of membership income for the current year. A clear indication would be available in August.

The Executive Committee **accepted** this recommendation.

15.7 Income Trends

The Sub-Committee reviewed the report on income trends. It was confirmed that other than discussed above, no changes are required to Forecast 2004 in respect of income.

15.8 Assembly

15.8.1 Assembly Subsidy Policy

The Sub-Committee had reviewed the Subsidy Policy proposed by the Assembly Planning Committee:

The APC **recommended** the following guidelines to the Executive Committee for final action:

A. Guidelines for Allocating Financial Subsidies to Assembly Participants

(a) Delegates of member churches and delegated representatives of associated member churches:

1. It is the responsibility of the member churches to pay the expenses of their delegates. Where this is not possible, requests for a financial subsidy will be considered.
2. Subsidies are provided to ensure maximum participation by member churches. In view of the limited resources available it must be ensured that:
   - all other avenues of support have been explored by the church.
   - churches have complied to their obligations regarding membership contributions for 2003, 2004 and 2005.
3. If the request for financial subsidy is made by the church by the required deadline and accepted by the WCC, the WCC can assist the participant with practical arrangements having sufficient time to organise accommodation and ensuring that the most reasonably priced ticket is available for purchase.
   For churches who apply for a subsidy after the stated deadline: while the subsidy may still be granted - the church/delegate is responsible for making the travel arrangements and ensuring that the assembly office is informed of the arrival date so that the corresponding accommodation arrangements can be made. Travel reimbursements would be made during or after the assembly and based upon:
   - the price of the air ticket which would have been proposed if the deadline had been met.
   - The participant presents the reimbursement claim to the finance office during the assembly.

   The WCC will not reimburse accommodation arrangements that have not been formally agreed upon with the assembly office.
4. Priorities for the allocation of a financial subsidy will be:

– To assist one person from each member, or associated member church.
– Subsequent subsidies will be allocated using the following criteria, ensuring equal percentage of subsidy for voting delegates of member churches:

- Churches that have paid in full their membership contribution;
- Churches whose delegations conform to the Central Committee criteria regarding, women, youth and persons;
- Churches which have made a financial contribution to assembly budget.

(b) Advisors. WCC will pay all expenses which are not paid by their churches in accordance with the travel / accommodation expense policy.
(c) Guests. WCC will offer board and lodging and/or travel expenses where necessary.
(d) Other participants. Other delegated representatives, delegated observers, observers, and members of the retiring Central Committee are expected to pay their own costs.
(e) Additional expenses. The following expenses are considered the minimum contribution to be made by the church/participant and will not be reimbursed by the WCC:

- Registration fee: In the event that the participants registration has not been paid, it will be deducted from any due reimbursement.
- Travel: Airport taxes, visa fees, internal transport costs to the airport, inoculations, travel tax, etc.
- Accommodation related: Telephone, room service, or other personal charges.

B. Assembly subsidies - travel/accommodation policy

The following expenses may be included by participants requesting a financial subsidy:

1. Return Travel to Porto Alegre:
   – The cost of a direct flight, economy fare, from the airport of departure from the participants country of residence to Porto Alegre and return without undue stop-overs unless a break is required because the

duration of the trip exceeds 18 hours in which case the WCC would cover the cost of meals and a moderately priced hotel.

- The rate which is the lowest rate available for the ticket: either purchased by the WCC or the lowest rate available in the country of residence if the participant purchases the ticket.

2. Accommodation / meals for the duration of the assembly only. If the participant has arranged his own accommodation, reimbursement will be made up to the equivalent amount for which accommodation had been arranged by the WCC or the amount of the accommodation arranged by the participant, whichever being the lowest.

The Sub-Committee **was recommending** that the following addition be made at the end of A.2:

During 2003-2005, there is to be evidence that churches are committed to contributing under the new membership contribution structure, through active engagement in dialogue with WCC and some resultant financial commitments.

Discussion

Dean Gadegaard again emphasized that a church seeking subsidy for the Assembly but having difficulty in paying its full membership contribution should enter into conversation with the special Sub-Group of the Central Committee and give some evidence of its willingness to begin 'to climb the ladder'.

The Moderator, summing up, declared that the Central Committee's decision on membership contributions should be adhered to but that there should be some flexibility and pastoral care shown to churches which have difficulty in paying them.

The Executive Committee **approved** the Subsidy Policy **together with the proposed addition**.

15.8.2 Assembly Registration Fee

The Sub-Committee had reviewed the APC proposal to amend the registration fee, setting out tariffs in line with countries' GDP.

Countries are grouped by levels of GDP and the fee is calculated as follows:

Group	Fee in US$
Over 23,000	250
18,000 - 22,999	200
10,000 - 17,999	150
5,000 - 9,999	100
Under 4,999	50

For example as Albania has a GDP of US$ 3680, the fee for one participant from **Albania** would be **50** US$.

Assembly Fee

based on the Gross Domestic Products (PPPs) in US dollars and divided into groups with a minimum fee of $50

Country	GDP	Fee
Albania	3,680	50
Algeria	6,090	100
Angola	2,040	50
Antigua & Barbuda	10,170	150
Argentina	11,320	150
Armenia	2,650	50
Australia	25,370	250
Austria	26,730	250
Bahamas	16,270	150
Bangladesh	1,610	50
Barbados	15,560	150
Belarus	7,620	100
Belgium	25,520	250
Belize	5,690	100
Benin	980	50
Bolivia	2,300	50
Botswana	7,820	100
Brazil	7,360	100
Burundi	690	50
Cameroon	1,680	50
Canada	27,130	250
Chile	9,190	100
China	4,020	50
Congo	970	50
Congo, Dem. Rep.	680	50
Costa Rica	9,460	100
Côte d'Ivoire	1,490	50
Cuba	5,259	100
Cyprus	21,190	200
Czech Republic	14,720	150
Denmark	29,000	250
Egypt	3,520	50
El Salvador	5,260	100
Equatorial Guinea	15,073	150
Eritrea	1,030	50
Estonia	10,170	150
Ethiopia	810	50
Fiji	4,850	50
Finland	24,430	250
France	23,990	250

Country	GDP	Fee
Gabon	5,990	100
Gambia	2,050	50
Germany	25,350	250
Ghana	2,250	50
Greece	17,440	150
Hong Kong, China	24,850	250
Hungary	12,340	150
Iceland	29,990	250
India	2,840	50
Indonesia	2,940	50
Iran, Islamic Rep.	6,000	100
Ireland	32,410	250
Israel	19,790	200
Italy	24,670	250
Jamaica	3,720	50
Japan	25,130	250
Jordan	3,870	50
Kenya	980	50
Korea, Rep. of	15,090	150
Latvia	7,730	100
Lebanon	4,170	50
Lesotho	2,420	50
Lithuania	8,470	100
Madagascar	830	50
Malawi	570	50
Malaysia	8,750	100
Mauritius	9,860	100
Mexico	8,430	100
Mozambique	1,140	50
Myanmar	1,027	50
Namibia	7,120	100
Netherlands	27,190	250
New Zealand	19,160	200
Nicaragua	2,450	50
Nigeria	850	50
Norway	29,620	250
Pakistan	1,890	50
Panama	5,750	100
Papua New Guinea	2,570	50
Peru	4,570	50

Country	GDP	Fee
Philippines	3,840	50
Poland	9,450	100
Portugal	18,150	200
Romania	5,830	100
Russian Federation	7,100	100
Rwanda	1,250	50
Samoa (Western)	6,180	100
Seychelles	17,030	150
Sierra Leone	470	50
Singapore	22,680	200
Slovakia	11,960	150
Solomon Islands	1,910	50
South Africa	11,290	150
Spain	20,150	200
Sri Lanka	3,180	50
Sudan	1,970	50
Suriname	4,599	50
Swaziland	4,330	50
Sweden	24,180	250
Switzerland	28,100	250
Syrian Arab Republic	3,280	50
Tanzania	520	50
Thailand	6,400	100
Togo	1,650	50
Trinidad and Tobago	9,100	100
Turkey	5,890	100
Uganda	1,490	50
Ukraine	4,350	50
United Kingdom	24,160	250
United States	34,320	250
Uruguay	8,400	100
Vanuatu	3,190	50
Zambia	780	50
Zimbabwe	2,280	50
Average GDPs		
E. Asia & the Pacific	4,233	50
Latin America and the Caribbean	7,050	50
South Asia	2,730	50
Sub-Sarahan Africa	1,831	50

Notes

1. Average GDPs listed at end of table are used where no statistics exist for a particular county or where the church is located in several countries within a region

2. Source of data: September 2003 Human Development Reports of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

3. Comparative data for all countries (not only where the WCC have member churches) is available upon

4. An article about the Human Development Index is available upon request which includes details on the the concept of GDP-PPPs Purchasing Power Parities used in the calculations

The Sub-Committee supported the concept of structuring the fee in this way.

The Sub-committee **recommended** that Executive Committee require that the basic registration fee be increased to US$ 200, the lowest fee payment being then not much lower than that paid for Harare (e.g. USD 200). Revision and restructuring of the tariff should not result in an adverse variance from the approved budget line.

Discussion

Dean Gadgaard added that it would create problems for the Assembly budget if the Executive Committee did not agree to a minimum registration fee of US$ 200.

Revd Iteffa Gobena observed that a registration fee of US$ 200 was a large amount of money for a Third World country.

HG Archbishop Nifon of Targoviste pleaded for flexibility. If a church were now allocated more seats at the Assembly, it would have correspondingly more registration fees to pay.

Mrs Justice Sophia Adinyira reminded the Committee that registration fees are not subsidizable. They had not been at Harare.

Revd Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick observed that the need to meet budget requirements had to be balanced against churches' ability to pay the registration fee.

The Executive Committee **accepted** the recommendation that the minimum assembly registration fee should be US$ 200, while also recognizing that, in cases of churches having extreme difficulty in paying it, the original formula could be used as a basis for negotiation.

15.8.3 Draft Assembly Budget Forecast

The Sub-Committee reviewed the draft Assembly Forecast, and recognized that certain income commitments are not yet firm, and that further work is in progress elaborating planned expenses. The Sub-Committee **recommended** that Executive Committee request that

- staff be committed to ensuring that the budget remains balanced.
- a further detailed Forecast be presented at the next Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee **approved** the above recommendation.

15.9 Endowment and General Fund Investment Guidelines

The Sub-Committee reviewed and approved the investment guidelines for the General Fund. The portfolio is held in bonds and deposits.

The Sub-Committee reviewed the guidelines for the Endowment Fund, and acknowledged the work of the Investment Advisory Group. The Sub-Committee endorsed the decision to hold the investment management mandate to tender. The Sub-Committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee request that the results of the tender process be reported at the next meeting.

The Executive Committee **approved** this recommendation.

15.10 Audit Tender

The Sub-Committee heard that the Audit Committee is to meet in March to plan the audit tender.

The Sub-Committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee request that proposed appointment be presented to the Executive Committee in August 2004.

The Executive Committee **approved** this recommendation.

The Moderator expressed the Executive Committee's thanks to the Finance Sub-Committee.

16 REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr Marion Best presented the Programme Sub-Committee's report.

16.1 Comments and Recommendations on the Programme Highlights Report

The Executive Committee reviewed the Programme Highlights Report with appreciation for the work that the staff has done in the period since its last meeting. In exercising its responsibility for monitoring and overseeing the ongoing programmes and activities, the Committee noted the continuing volume of work being carried by a smaller number of staff, and concern was expressed in the light of the increased focus on preparations for the 9th Assembly in the weeks and months ahead.

During the presentation of the Programme Highlights Report, in one of the discussions the Executive Committee stated that some items required further information and consideration. These were taken up in the Programme Sub-Committee. This report focuses on those aspects of the Programme Highlights Report which received special attention. Although all programmes and activities in the report were reviewed, due to time constraints and because much of the Committee's time needed to be devoted to the Assembly Planning Committee's (APC) report, comments on each programme are somewhat limited.

16.1.1 Strengthening the One Ecumenical Movement

The Programme Sub-Committee **recommended** that:

Visits to and from churches remain essential in strengthening the fellowship and that strategic approaches for organising visits be further developed. The model of "living letters" including mutual visits of member churches to one another continue to be used as much as the WCC financial situation allows.

The Executive Committee **accepted** this recommendation.

16.1.2 Ecumenical Institute, Bossey

The Programme Sub-Committee expressed its deep appreciation for the increased co-operation between Bossey and WCC Geneva staff and was pleased to hear about the improved income generating activities.

16.1.3 Dialogue with Neighbours of Other Religions

The Programme Sub-Committee received the proposal from the IRRD team for organising a multi-religious and international conference in the Fall of 2004. It recognised the importance and relevance of such a consultation, but expressed concern about the timing as well as about human and financial resources available for this extra activity in 2004.

Providing financial and human resources are available, the Programme Sub-Committee **recommended** that a multi-religious international conference be held in the Fall of 2004 and that the IRRD team plan this event carefully together with the other teams concerned and that strong emphasis be put on the follow-up in preparation for the Assembly.

Dr Best commented that this was a new idea and it would be a major undertaking, involving additional funding and staffing. She underlined that it was a conditional recommendation, 'providing financial and human resources are available.'

Discussion

The Moderator commented that it was not a completely new idea, as it had been raised at the previous Central Committee meeting consequentially to his report. It was of crucial importance that we should be open to such a gathering.

Dr Best responded that the Programme Sub-Committee were certainly not against the proposal in principle.

The Executive Committee **accepted** this recommendation.

16.1.4 Decade to Overcome Violence

The Programme Sub-Committee welcomed the encouraging news about the steady development of the programme.

It affirmed the recommendations made by the Reference Group, particularly in relation to the Assembly (plenary on DOV and emphasis on youth).

16.1.5 Unity of the Church

The Programme Sub-Committee welcomed the follow-up work done on the EDAN statement.

It **recommended** that ongoing study processes of Faith and Order be noted in the report to the next Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee **accepted** this recommendation.

16.1.6 Ecumenical Advocacy and Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts

The Programme Sub-Committee was very much encouraged to see the strengthening of the WCC presence at the United Nations and affirmed the

initiative taken to organise an annual international affairs and advocacy week in New York.

The Committee especially welcomed the establishment of the Jerusalem Ecumenical Centre as an important step forward for the ecumenical witness in Palestine/Israel. The Committee expressed its deep appreciation and gratitude for the costly commitment of men and women involved in the EAPPI and drew attention to their testimonies shared on the WCC web site (and distributed to the members of the Executive Committee).

In response to concerns expressed by members of the Executive Committee about anti-Semitism, in Europe in particular, the Programme Sub-Committee **recommended** that the issue be addressed by the Inter-Religious Dialogue and International Affairs teams for appropriate analysis and follow-up.

Discussion

The Moderator questioned the meaning of the original formulation of the recommendation calling for further action.

Ms Geneviève Jacques responded that that was a deliberately vague formulation, as the Public Issues Sub-Committee had felt that a Statement would be premature. No particular action was envisaged at present.

Revd Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick felt that the Council should take a strong stand, but that human rights for all people should inform our thinking.

Dean Gadegaard suggested amending 'appropriate action' to 'appropriate analysis and follow-up', which was accepted.

The Executive Committee **accepted** the recommendation **as amended**.

16.1.7 Mission and Evangelism – World Conference

The Programme Sub-Committee received a request presented by Rev. Jacques Matthey on behalf of the CWME Officers to give authority to the WCC Officers to approve a first list of participants in the CWME 2005 Conference.

After careful consideration, the Sub-Committee **recommended** waiting until the Executive Committee in August 2004 to confirm a longer list of names, allowing for a more holistic assessment of the balances.

Discussion

Revd Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick wondered why only 65 names for participants had so far been submitted.

Revd Dr Carlos Ham said that there was no clear explanation. The World Mission Conference Planning Committee would be meeting in March and they would encourage churches to submit names. Already there had been a good number of nominations from non-member churches. It would help the conference planning process if a first, but not final, list of participants could be approved by the Officers. To leave the full list of delegates to be determined by the Executive Committee at its August meeting would be giving delegates less than one year's notice of their participation.

HE Metropolitan Gennadios of Sassima observed that approval in two stages might distort balances. In August the picture would be clearer and it would be easier for balances to be achieved.

The Executive Committee **rejected** the recommendation of the Sub-Committee and **authorized the Officers** to approve a first list of participants in June 2004. The Executive Committee would approve the final list at its meeting in August 2004.

16.1.8 Health and Healing – HIV/AIDS

Health and Healing - HIV/AIDS: The Programme Sub-Committee appreciated hearing a more detailed description of the WCC involvement in HIV/AIDS, including the international ecumenical initiative in Africa.

The Programme Sub-Committee affirmed the impressive work done until now and recommended strengthening the co-operation with AACC and WCC advocacy work to address together the pandemic and to ensure that international funds for HIV/AIDS are made available for churches.

Revd Dr Carlos Ham suggested the addition of the words 'to address together the pandemic' (as included above), which Dr Best accepted.

16.1.9 The Challenge of Ecumenical Formation

The Programme Sub-Committee **recommended** that WCC continue to relate to OIKOSNET.

It received with appreciation the new brochure on the Scholarships programme and **recommended** that churches, both in the North and in the South, be encouraged to provide more opportunities for theological studies in their schools, in addition to traditional scholarships.

The Executive Committee **accepted** these recommendations.

16.1.10 Ethics of Life and Alternatives to Globalization

The Programme Sub-Committee considered the process of encounters between the WCC and World Bank/International Monetary Fund (IMF) worth continuing and looked forward to receiving the results of the upcoming high level summit scheduled for the Fall 2004.

The Committee **recommended** that the WCC take a leadership role in promoting a coordinated approach among member churches and ecumenical partners with regard to the relations with the World Bank and IMF.

It affirmed the global campaign on overcoming violence against women and children "On the Wings of a Dove" and hoped that churches would use the resource material in preparation for this campaign (scheduled for 25 Nov. - 10 Dec. 2004).

The Executive Committee **accepted** this recommendation.

16.1.11 Diakonia and Solidarity

The Programme Sub-Committee looked forward to receiving the results of the review of the WCC Office in the Pacific at its next session. The lessons learned would be useful for the WCC Middle East Office as well.

It welcomed the encouraging news concerning the functioning of the new WCC US Office and of its co-operation with the WCC UN Office in New York.

In relation to the Caribbean region, the Committee **recommended** that special attention be given to the situation in Haiti by the Diakonia and Solidarity and the International Affairs teams.

It **recommended** that co-operation with ACT be regularly reported to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee **accepted** these recommendations.

16.1.12 Communication

The Committee welcomed the establishment of a Staff Communication Strategy Group and looked forward to receiving its report at the Programme Committee Meeting in February 2005.

It expressed appreciation for and affirmed the priorities developed by the teams, mindful of the fact that the upcoming major events (Faith and Order, CWME Conference and Assembly) would put increasing pressure on the teams.
It expressed concern with regard to the Library and the archives as to how the work would continue after the project supported by the Pictet Bank grant concludes in the Spring of 2005.

16.2 Pre-Assembly Programme Evaluation

The Sub-Committee submitted revised terms of reference and **recommended** their adoption.

The Executive Committee **accepted** this recommendation.

The Sub-Committee **proposed** that the External Evaluation Team be composed of: Dr Marion Best (co-ordinator), Ms Sylvia Raulo, Dr Georges Tsetsis, and Dr William Ogura. Dr Ogura had been contacted and had indicated his willingness to serve. A first meeting had been arranged for 16-17 March.

The Executive Committee **appointed** the above to form the External Evaluation Team.

16.3 Assembly Planning

The Executive Committee received the APC Report and affirmed its main directions. It welcomed in particular the proposal for a plenary on the DOV

and the focus on Youth. It encouraged the Worship Committee to continue its work along the lines spelled out in the report of their first meeting.

The Executive Committee expressed its appreciation to the APC for the work already accomplished and offered the following suggestions for further consideration.

1. Overall Programme:

a) Elaborate further the rationale behind the sequence of the "opening acts" (opening session, opening worship, Moderator's and General Secretary's reports);

b) Review the number of regional meetings;

c) Reconsider the need for some free time.

2. Sub-Themes and Sections:

a) Consider the possibility of regrouping the proposed ten sub-themes under three headings. The Executive Committee was inclined to think that 3 headings (or broad areas of concern, or sub-themes under which a series of concerns can be spelled out in a more flexible way) would better serve the needs for preparing the worship life and Bible studies.

"God, in your grace, transform ... our lives... our churches ... our society (ies)", was offered as a potential solution. The APC was invited to give further thought to this matter. Attention was drawn to the fact that these three invocations for God's grace should be kept closely inter-related.

The APC (maybe as a result of a dialogue through e-mail) should help the Worship Committee and the Bible study group to move ahead.

b) Review the methodology of the section work. The APC had suggested ten sections, each one of them working on one sub-theme throughout the assembly. The Executive Committee proposed that all sections work on all three areas (taking, for example, one area for two days, on the

basis of a carefully prepared annotated agenda and following, mainly though not exclusively, the actual ten sub-themes).

c) Outcome of section work. Churches' voices and concerns should be listened to. Delegates should be given the opportunity to share with one another in a real spirit of fellowship. Section work should aim at serving this purpose. At the same time, however, section work should help and lead us to articulate how could we break new ground, go beyond the present programmatic work of the Council, and discern the main challenges addressed to the ecumenical movement in the 21st century.

Discussion

HE Metropolitan Gennadios of Sassima felt that these comments should not be simply suggestions. The Assembly Planning Committee was accountable to the Executive and Central Committees.

The Executive Committee **accepted** the Sub-Committee's report and passed it to the Assembly Planning Committee for their consideration.

The Sub-Committee further asked the Executive Committee to consider the possibility of inviting Revd Norman Shanks, APC Moderator, to their next meeting. He had been missed in the present meeting.

In view of the fact that the next Executive Committee meeting would be in Korea and that there would be no further meeting of the Assembly Planning Committee before then, the Executive Committee decided to leave it with the Officers and the General Secretary to discuss with Mr Shanks the possibility of his attendance.

The Moderator thanked the Programme Sub-Committee for their work.

17 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dr Samuel Lee, on behalf of the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Korea and the General Secretaries of the three member churches in Korea, conveyed an invitation to the Executive Committee to hold its next meeting in August 2004 in Korea. The hosts would observe the conditions for such governing body meetings outside Geneva and cover the additional costs. The meeting would be in Seoul and there would be opportunities for congregational visits on Sunday 22 August. The year 2004 would be particularly appropriate for such a visit, as it was the 80th anniversary of the founding of the National Council of Churches in Korea and the 120th anniversary of the beginning of Protestant missionary work.
Dean Anders Gadegaard, expressing appreciation, added his hope that there would be an opportunity to visit church projects on Monday 23 August.

The Moderator expressed the appreciation of the Executive Committee for the invitation and declared that it was accepted with joy and thanks. He hoped that a visit to the Demilitarized Zone would be possible.

Dr Lee, at a later session, thanked the Executive Committee for accepting the invitation, and also conveyed the thanks of the national council and the Korean member churches. He hoped that members would arrive no later than Saturday 21 August, thus allowing two days for meeting with the Korean churches. If members arrived earlier or stayed later afterwards, they would be looked after.

The dates of future meetings thus were:

Executive Committee: 21-28 August 2004
(arrivals 21 August, visits 22-23 August, meeting 24-27 August, departures 28 August)
Executive Committee : 13-14 February 2005 (revised dates)
Central Committee: 15-22 February 2005 (revised dates)
World Mission Conference: 9-16 May 2005

Executive Committee: 13-16 September 2005
Ninth Assembly: 14-23 February 2006

18 EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION AND CLOSING ACTIONS

At various points in the meeting particular expressions of appreciation had been made: to Peter Williams, for his award-winning film 'Roots of Violence', produced in collaboration with the Ecumenical Council in Denmark; and to leaving members of staff, Revd Freddy Knutsen, Ms Joan Geuss, Revd Dr Alan Falconer and Ms Salpy Eskidjian, for their valuable contributions to the Council's work.

The General Secretary expressed his thanks to the Executive Committee for the support given him. In particular, he had much appreciated the Service of Installation, the Moderator's presiding at it and Dr Kirkpatrick's sermon. He had drawn courage, inspiration and strength from the service.

He thanked all colleagues who had contributed to the preparation of the meeting and who had seen to the meeting's practical arrangements.

The Moderator thanked the General Secretary for his organizational and spiritual leadership at this his first meeting of a governing body, and echoed the General Secretary's thanks to the Executive Committee members and staff.

Mr John Doom thanked the Moderator and Vice-Moderators for their leadership.

The Moderator closed the meeting of the Executive Committee at 12.45pm on 20 February 2004.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Officers:	H.H. Aram I, Catholicos of Cilicia	(Moderator)
	Mrs Justice Sophia Adinyira	(Vice-Moderator)
	Dr Marion Best	(Vice-Moderator)
	Revd Dr Samuel Kobia	(General Secretary)
Members:	Bishop Dr Hilarion Alfeyev	
	Dean Anders Gadegaard	
	H.E. Metr. Dr Gennadios of Sassima	
	Revd Iteffa Gobena	
	Ms Carmencita Karagdag	
	H.G. Archbishop Mor Cyril Aphrem Karim	
	Revd. Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick	
	Very Revd Leonid Kishkovsky	
	Bishop Dr. Rolf Koppe	
	Ms Jana Krajciriková	
	Revd Septemmy E. Lakawa	
	Prof. Dr Samuel Lee	
	Revd Dr Maake S.J. Masango	
	H.G. Archbishop Nifon of Targoviste	
	Ms Idah Njobvu	
	Rt. Revd Dr Zacharias Mar Theophilus	
Ex Officio:	Fr Dr K. M. George	
Apologies:	Revd. Inamar Correa de Souza	
	Ms Donnalie E.C. Edwards-Cabey	
	Rev. Dr Ilaitia Sevati Tuwere	
	Bishop McKinley Young	
Substitute:	Mr John Doom	

Staff: Mr Alexander Belopopsky
Mr Georges Lemopoulos
Ms Geneviève Jacques
Dr William Temu
Revd Sabine Udodesku

part-time
Ms Elaine Dykes
Revd Dr Alan Falconer
Dr Elizabeth Ferris
Mr Hans Ulrich Gerber
Ms Aruna Gnanadason
Revd Dr Carlos Ham
Mr Michiel Hardon
Ms Christina Minezac
Dr Tarek Mitri
Mr Yannick Provost
Mr Hubert Van Beek
Revd Dr Hans Ucko
Mr Peter Weiderud

Minute-Writer: Rev. Tony Coates

Administration: Mr Gerard Scarff
Ms Ursula Zierl

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Programme

Dr Marion S. Best
Metr. Dr Gennadios of Sassima
Fr Dr K. M. George
Revd Iteffa Gobena
Archbishop Mor Cyril Aphrem Karim
Ms Jana Krajciriková
Revd Septemmy E. Lakawa
Revd Dr Maake J. Masango
Ms Idah Njobvu

Staffing and Nominations

Justice Sophia O.A. Adinyira
Bishop Dr Hilarion Alfeyev
Rev. Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick
Prof. Dr Samuel Lee
Archbishop Nifon of Targoviste
Rt. Rev. Dr Zacharias Mar Theophilus

Finance

His Holiness Aram I
Mr John Doom
Dean Anders Gadegaard
Ms Carmencita Karagdag

Very Revd Leonid Kishkovsky
Bishop Dr Rolf Koppe

Public Issues

Ms Carmencita Karagdag
Archbishop Mor Cyril Aphrem Karim
Revd Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick
Bishop Dr Rolf Koppe
Revd Dr Maake J. Masango
Archbishop Nifon of Targoviste
Ms Idah Njobvu
Rt Revd Dr Zacharias Mar Theophilus

APPENDIX III

PROPOSED NEW RULES OF PROCEDURE
RULE XVI CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

1. ***General***

a) These provisions for conduct of meetings shall apply to Assemblies and to meetings of the Central Committee, Executive Committee and their subcommittees. These provisions shall serve as guidelines for conduct of meetings of commissions and advisory bodies of the WCC. During an Assembly, the terms "Presidents, and Moderator and Vice-Moderators of the Central Committee" shall refer to the persons holding those offices during the outgoing Central Committee. During the term of a Central Committee such terms shall refer to the current Presidents and officers of that Central Committee.

b) The term "delegate" shall mean an official representative of a member church, to an Assembly (Rule III, 1 (a)) with the rights to speak and to participate in decision making at an Assembly. When this Rule is applied to the conduct of meetings of the Central Committee, the term "delegate" shall be construed to mean a member of the Central Committee or that member's substitute (Rule V), with the rights to speak and to participate in decision making of the Central Committee.

c) The term "participant" includes delegates as well as persons invited to the Assembly or meeting of the Central Committee as "persons with the right to speak but not to vote" (Rule III(b)).

2. ***Categories of Sessions*** -- The Assembly shall sit in one of the following categories of sessions: general, hearing, or decision. The Business Committee shall determine the category of session appropriate to the agenda of the session.

a) *General Session* -- General sessions shall be reserved for

ceremonial occasions, public acts of witness and formal addresses. Only matters proposed by the Central Committee or by the Business Committee after its election shall be included in General sessions. No decisions shall be made during General sessions.

b) *Hearing Session* -- Hearing sessions shall be designated for plenary presentations, discussion, dialogue, and exchange of ideas as a resource for developing understanding of issues, deepening the fellowship among the member churches and coming to a common mind on matters on the agenda of the session. The widest possible range of perspectives should be encouraged during Hearing sessions. No decisions shall be made during Hearing sessions, other than to move to a Decision session, if deemed necessary.

c) *Decision Session* -- Decision sessions shall be designated for the following matters:

(i) adoption of the agenda;
(ii) proposal for change in the agenda,
(iii) appointments and elections;
(iv) reception or adoption of reports;
(v) actions to be taken on recommendations or proposals of committees or commissions, or arising out of Hearing sessions;
(vi) adoption of accounts and financial audits
(vii) amendment of Constitution or Rules; and
(viii) all other matters requiring a decision of the Council.

3. Moderating Sessions

a) A moderator for each session of the Assembly shall be designated before an Assembly by the outgoing Central Committee, and during an Assembly by the Business Committee, as follows:

(i) In General sessions one of the Presidents or the Moderator of the Central Committee shall preside;

(ii) In Hearing sessions one of the Presidents, the Moderator or a Vice-Moderator of the Central Committee, or a delegate with specific expertise in the subject matter of the Hearing shall preside;

(iii) In Decision sessions the Moderator or a Vice-Moderator of the Central Committee or other member of the Central Committee shall preside.

b) Session moderators will undertake the following:

(i) to convene the session, including announcing the category of session;
(ii) to facilitate and encourage the discussion and dialogue, the exchange and development of ideas, assisting the meeting to come to a common mind;
(iii) during Decision sessions, to test any emerging agreement on a particular point or points and whether the meeting is ready to move to a decision by consensus; and
(iv) in the event the category of session is to change during a session, to announce the change in category, providing a break in the session to mark the change in category.

c) In the event a recorder is assigned to a session, the moderator will consult with the recorder to assure that the developing consensus is accurately

reflected and made available to the meeting.

d) All session moderators shall have either experience or specific training in conducting meetings based upon a consensus model of decision-making.

4. ***Moderator of the Assembly***

The Moderator of the Assembly shall announce the opening, suspension and the adjournment of the Assembly.

5. ***Agenda***

a) Matters on the Agenda of a Meeting
Matters may be included in the agenda of a meeting according to Rule III(3) and procedures established by the Business and Programme Committees, and any other committee established by Central Committee for that purpose. Normally, matters included in an agenda would be based upon a report, recommendation or proposal that has been fully considered before and is supported by the consensus of the proposing group or committee.

b) The Business Committee shall ensure that the moderator is advised before each session, and if appropriate during the breaks within a session, as to the conduct of the business and the priority of various agenda items. Any participant in the meeting may approach a member of the business committee to express their views as to (i) the appropriateness of a proposal; (ii) its priority in the agenda of the meeting; (iii) how the proposal may best be dealt with by the meeting. It is also appropriate for any delegate to make a procedural suggestion during the meeting itself.

c) Matters concerning ecclesiological self-understanding
Where a matter being raised is considered by a delegate to go against the ecclesiological self-understanding of his or her church, he or she may request that it not be submitted for decision, whether by consensus or by voting process. The session moderator will in such a case seek the advice of the Business Committee in consultation with this delegate and other members of

the same church or confession present at the session. If there is a consensus that the matter does in fact go against the ecclesiological self-understanding of the delegate, the moderator will announce that the matter be dealt with in a Hearing session without bringing the matter to a decision. The materials and minutes of the discussion will be sent to the churches for their study and comment.

6. ***Speaking***

a) In Hearing sessions, participants wishing to speak either may submit to the session moderator a written request to speak or may queue at microphones placed in the meeting room when the moderator shall invite queues to form, but may speak only when granted that right by the moderator.

b) In Decision sessions, only delegates may speak. Delegates wishing to speak either may submit to the session moderator a written request to speak or may queue at microphones placed in the meeting room when the moderator shall invite queues to form, but may speak only when granted that right by the moderator.

c) The moderator shall determine who shall speak and the order of speakers from written requests to speak and from the microphone queues. If time allows and others are not left unheard, the moderator may permit speakers to intervene more than once.

d) When recognized by the moderator, speakers shall speak from microphones positioned on the floor of the room. The speaker shall first state his or her name, church, country, and role at the meeting and shall address his or her remarks to the moderator.

e) Speakers will normally be limited to three minutes, however the moderator may, at his or her discretion, allow extra time to a speaker if there is a difficulty in language or interpretation or if the issues being discussed are unusually complex.

f) Provided that a speaker is not interrupted, any delegate may raise a point

of order or procedure. As a point of order, a delegate may only assert that the procedure being followed is not in accordance with these Rules. As a point of procedure, a delegate may only ask for clarification of the pending matter.

g) If any delegate disagrees with the moderator's decision on a point of order, he or she may appeal against it. In this case the moderator will put this question, without discussion, to the meeting: "Does the meeting concur with the decision of the moderator?" The delegates present shall decide the question according to the decision-making procedures then being employed.

7. Reaching Consensus: Seeking the Common Mind of the Meeting

a) Consensus is a process of seeking the common mind of the meeting without resort to a formal vote, in a process of genuine dialogue that is respectful, mutually supportive and empowering, whilst seeking to discern God's will for the Council.

b) Decisions will normally be by consensus, unless otherwise specified by the Rules.

c) A consensus decision on a particular matter is reached when one of the following occurs:

(i) all delegates are in agreement (unanimity); or
(ii) most are in agreement and those who disagree are satisfied that the discussion has been both full and fair and do not object that the proposal expresses the general mind of the meeting.

d) A consensus decision means that there is agreement about the outcome of a discussion. This may mean agreement to accept a proposal or variation of proposal, but it also may mean agreement about another outcome, including agreement to reject a proposal, to postpone a matter, that no decision can be reached, or that there are various opinions that may be held. When consensus

has been reached that various opinions can be held concerning a matter, the various opinions shall be recorded as the body of the proposal, rather than being included in the Minutes as variations to a proposal.

8. ***Consensus Process***

a) Reaching a common mind will normally necessitate a series of steps, and the session moderator will need to check with the meeting to determine whether it is ready to move to the next step (*e.*g. concluding discussion on one part of the proposal and moving to the next part of the proposal). In order to assist the moderator to discern the mind of the meeting and to move efficiently toward consensus, the recorder of the session shall maintain a record of the discussion to which the delegates will be invited to respond. Delegates may be provided with indicator cards.

b) Any delegate or the moderator can suggest that the matter be transferred to a group composed of participants expressing the range of points of view and be postponed to a later session so as to allow further work to be done between sessions. This suggestion will itself be tested so as to discern the mind of the meeting.

c) At the point of decision the moderator will announce the proposal and test whether consensus has been reached. If all are agreed consistent with Rule XVI, 7(c)(i), the moderator will declare that consensus has been reached and the decision made. If the meeting is not unanimous, the moderator shall ask those who hold a minority opinion to explain their reasons and whether they can agree with a decision pursuant to Rule XVI, 7 (c)(ii) or whether decision has not been reached.

d) If, after every effort has been made to reach a consensus, decision cannot be reached and it is the opinion of any officer or the Business Committee that a decision must be made before the meeting finally concludes, the Business Committee will convene to formulate a proposal to the meeting as to how the matter may be considered a second time in a new form. The meeting itself will decide:

(i) whether it is willing to work further towards consensus on the proposal in its new form;

(ii) whether a decision must be made at this meeting;

(iii) whether a decision can be reached among most delegates with some delegates recording an objection, in which event a meeting may record acceptance of the proposal, providing that those delegates who do not agree are satisfied with that outcome and have the right to have his or her viewpoint recorded in the Minutes, or in reports of the meeting, or both; *[or*

(iv) *whether the meeting should invoke procedures to move the pending matter to be decided according to voting procedures (Rule XVI(9).]*

e) If, after the close of a meeting, a member church finds that it cannot support a decision of the meeting, the member church may object in writing and have its objection officially recorded.

f) *[When a meeting considers whether a matter should be moved to decision-making by a vote as described in Rule XVI(8)(d)(iv), the moderator shall determine, in accordance with Rule XVI (5)(c) "Matters concerning ecclesiological self-understanding", whether a move to voting procedures would be appropriate. In the event the matter appropriately may be so moved, the moderator announce that a vote to decide this change shall be taken. Delegates shall indicate by a show of voting card whether he or she agrees that the matter shall be decided by a vote. If eighty-five percent of delegates present vote in favor of moving the matter to a voting process, the matter shall so move. If fewer than eighty-five percent of delegates present vote in favor of moving the matter to a voting process, the matter shall not so move, and the meeting shall determine, again by vote of eighty-five percent of delegates present whether discussion should continue to achieve consensus or whether discussion should be discontinued.]*

9. ***Decision-making by vote***

a) Some matters always will be resolved by vote, rather than by consensus. These include:

(i) Constitutional changes (which need a two-thirds majority);

(ii) Elections (which follow specific rules in each case);

(iii) Adoption of yearly accounts and of the financial audit report (simple majority).

b) *[For matters that have been moved from consensus process to decision making by vote in accordance with Rule XVI(8)(d)(iv) and(g), and for matters reserved to a voting procedure according to subsection (a) of this section]* the following procedures will be followed:

(i) All motions must be moved and seconded by a delegate, and the mover has the right to speak first.

(ii) No one may speak more than once, except that the mover or the seconder may answer objections at the end of the discussion.

(iii) Any delegate may move an amendment, and if a seconder supports him or her, the amendment will be considered simultaneously with the original proposal.

(iv) When the discussion is concluded, including the right of mover or seconder to reply (see (ii) above), the moderator will call for the vote and will put the notice of amendment first. If approved, it will be incorporated in the original proposal, which will then be put to the vote.

c) If the mover of a motion or amendment or notice of amendment wishes to withdraw his or her motion during the discussion, he or she will ask the permission of the meeting to do so. The moderator will seek the consent of the meeting for the withdrawal.

d) If the session moderator wishes to participate in the discussion, or to move a motion, he or she will relinquish the position of moderator of the session to another presiding officer until the matter has been resolved.

e) Any delegate may move to close the discussion, but in doing so shall not interrupt a speaker. If seconded, the moderator will put this motion immediately without discussion If two-thirds of the meeting agree, the voting process will then begin. If the motion fails, discussion will proceed, but the same motion to close discussion may be moved again as the discussion continues, but not by the delegate who moved it the first time.

f) Voting shall be by show of hands or voting cards and the moderator will ask first for those in favour, then for those against, and finally for those who wish to abstain from voting. The moderator will then announce the result of the vote.

g) If the moderator is in doubt, or for any other reason decides to do so, or if any delegate requests it, a vote on the matter shall be taken immediately by count on a show of hands or voting cards. The moderator may call tellers to count those voting and abstaining. Any delegate may ask that voting be by secret written ballot, and if seconded and if a majority of delegates present and voting agree, a secret written ballot will be taken. The moderator shall announce the result of any count or secret written ballot.

h) A majority of the delegates present including those abstaining shall determine a matter being decided by vote unless a higher proportion is required by the Constitution or these Rules. If the vote results in a tie, the matter shall be regarded as defeated.

i) A moderator entitled to vote may vote in a secret written ballot, or any vote by show of hands or voting cards, but may not cast the decisive vote in the event of a tie.

j) Any two delegates who voted with a majority for a motion may request the business committee to propose to the meeting that the matter be reconsidered. The business committee will place the request before the

meeting and may choose to express its opinion as to whether the matter should be reconsidered. Reconsideration will take place only if two-thirds of delegates present agree.

k) Anyone voting with a minority or abstaining from voting may have his or her opinion recorded.

10. ***Languages***

The working languages in use in the World Council of Churches are English, French, German, Russian and Spanish. The General Secretary shall make reasonable effort to provide interpretation for any one of those languages into the others and shall endeavor to provide written translation of the specific wording of proposals. A participant may speak in another language only if he or she provides for interpretation into one of the working languages. The General Secretary shall provide all possible assistance to any participant requiring an interpreter.